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THE DIFFICULTIES OF LITERARY JUDGMENT.

There is nothing more difficult, perhaps, than to distinguish the beauties and defects of writings, especially of those belonging to an age far removed from our own. To appreciate propriety of plan, justness of sentiment, and felicity of language, demands something more than a passing observation, or a mere capacity to enjoy in our own language, poesy and eloquence. The thousand causes which imbue national character with colors and shades, necessarily also excite a powerful influence to determine that of individuals; and it is difficult in the pride of composition, and from the limitation of language, to separate sufficiently distinct, what we value as our philosophy and learning, from what we pretend to adore as nature! In those writings which have come down to us from the most remote periods of the world, belonging to nations which we must now look upon as shadows, which pass, it is true, under a form of being, but which the lights of present knowledge do not sufficiently illuminate to guide our thoughts, and demonstrate our opinions, we are found to enter upon the task of contrast but half prepared for the labor; because we are left with but naked principles of truth which develope their sentiments, but without the knowledge of the domestic state of the people, and the many proprieties and unities of the time and place, which might have stamped them with the character of excellence and beauty. If it then be thus difficult to embody the means from which we may fortify the judgment, in the consideration of that which merely constitutes the material or tangible part of the subject, how much

more so does it become, when for a just and true criticism, it is equally necessary that abstract influences should be calculated, that the mystic chain which connects thought and matter, should be again made to vibrate, and that the train of association should be followed from the first impulse of sound, by its thousand divergences of ideas, to its ultimate and consequent emotions of the soul. The euphony of sentences may be acknowledged, or denied, the sentiments expressed, becoming and natural, or forced and conceited, may be nicely distinguished; and the grammatical arrangement of the words admit of a philosophical exposition and a definite character. These are governed by rules, which are necessary to enable us to express ourselves correctly; but alone they are not sufficient to stamp a work as being good, or bad, commonplace, or beautiful. In all languages belonging to what has been considered an age, or people, civilized and refined, the abstractions (if such a term may be used) are numerous; and it is, perhaps, a cause of adding to such qualities of the language, the higher such state of civilization be advanced, and the more its progress in the arts and sciences be successful and rapid. The relationship of things is increased, as knowledge increases; each assumes a new, and multiplies its collateral existences by that which is produced or discovered: and as language cannot give words to state these new conditions, they are only expressed by the *tournure* of speech, or by phrases, or idiomatic arrangement. But do these fashions of speech, as they come to us after the lapse of ages, awaken the same ideas, the same passions? and can we possibly feel the force of that connexion, which the writings under consideration no doubt did to a certain degree claim, with the prejudices and actions of the time in which they were written? How must all these things be modified when measured by our taste, by our learning, by our prejudices? tastes, prejudices, and learning, of different character, as produced in an age entirely dissimilar, and probably by causes directly adverse. The familiar and daily intercourse of the people of those times, enabled them not only to judge of their beauties by the most approved rules of composition, but national feeling and peculiar social relations might have created a sentiment which enabled the heart also to lend its sympathies to confirm what the judgment had approved. There is a sound in language, even though that language be barbarous, which awakens feelings and emotions in the breasts of those who claim it as native, far more soothing and pleasurable than even the visions which the writer himself calls into being, and the imagination finds as much cause of excitement in this discarded agent, as in the regular succession of sentences and thought. This light and airy quality is omniscient; but it is felt in one tongue only, that which we have spoken and listened to, from childhood to age. To those who seek it in a foreign garb, it seems to address itself in the language of the poet:

“As easy may'st thou the intrenchant air
“With the keen sword impress.”—*Shakspeare*.

In expressing himself upon the character and the merits of the tragedy, or poem of Macbeth, Dr. Johnson makes this observation: "In order to make a true estimate of the abilities and merit of a writer, it is always necessary to examine the genius of his age, and the opinions of his contemporaries."

A truer remark, and a better guide for the government of the critic could not be given, when an opinion of the philosophy, or moral of the work, is alone the object of research. The rule, however, does not extend far enough to embrace every consideration which may be important for a just decision, as it seems to be understood. The latitude, which the writer intended should be given to the word *genius*, or the restrictions which his own view of it might have induced him to observe, seemed not worthy of explanation; and thus it may happen that a writer, in being literal, departs from justice, and in being just, goes beyond the rule. By such rules then, limited as they are by the boundaries of human knowledge, opinions cannot always be guided to a fixed and true result: natural instincts of right and wrong must be allowed to exercise some sway, and sentiments also, which are drawn rather from the source of life than from the fountain of learning. The march of knowledge is slower than the passage of years; and though the accumulation of learning by an individual be rapid, judgment and taste are not always acquired with it, which may point out its uses, and direct its application. This may illustrate the difference between knowledge and talent, and without much reflection, may often misguide some to rely upon mistaken effects as the consequence of particular causes; nature has established principles which can never, when understood, cause error; and all our learning and rules are but modified truths resulting from the same source, and which serve only to methodize these first elements of taste and judgment. But independent of the difficulty which opposes good judgment, from an absence of sufficient contemplation of natural causes, there is another which is almost as powerful and effective. Prejudices, or *preventions*, the offspring of the day, assail our opinions with the momentum of fashion, and the experience of the world sufficiently proves that it is much easier to fall into error than to dissipate its mists, or escape from its toils. The pride of opinion is universal; but what renders it dangerous sometimes, and ridiculous always, is that it is most stubborn and confident, exactly in the inverse ratio of the knowledge and truth upon which it is supposed to be based; and so men appeal to books and authorities, without trusting to their own sentiments and reasons, willing to surrender to a false system, their own judgments, rather than incur the censure of being "out of fashion," or meet the ridicule which always is for a time aimed at those who forsake the beaten path.

The fundamental laws which govern and direct the operations of physical and moral, or intellectual existences, are happily too definitely fixed to allow to many the distinction of originality. The excursions of thought, or reason, are bounded by the limits of

truth, beyond which, all is chaos and confusion. It is the province of men, to be guided by these lines as they are spread out over the universe; to pursue their various ramifications and learn their applicability, which are like the silken cord by which Ariadne baffled the dangers of the labyrinth, and secured to her lover a safe and happy exit. When men are cast upon an unknown shore, or explore an unknown country, the great rivers of the region afford facility and safety;—they, for awhile, avoid the small branches which form their tributary waters, and ascend to the source of the great stream, from which, in returning, they may survey with more leisure and confidence the country they had passed: if bewildered in their pursuit, they return again to the principal flood, and thus are relieved from the dangers of error, and the fears of uncertainty. So do the great principles of knowledge, when once understood, guide men in the regions of thought: they spread themselves every where; like the arteries of the human body, they course through every extremity, and wherever met, are easily traced back to the source of life and motion. To fix then by a due cultivation of those powers of judgment and taste, with which all are endowed to a certain extent, the standard of comparison is the only method of attaining the object sought by criticism. To succeed in such an undertaking, demands study, labor, and meditation, and an unceasing attention to those first principles which influence human thoughts and human actions.

First follow Nature, and your judgment frame
By her just standard, which is still the same:
Unerring Nature! still divinely bright,
One clear, unchanged and universal light,
Life, force, and beauty, must to all impart,
At once the source, and end, and test of art.
Art from that fund each just supply provides;
Works without show, and without pomp presides.—*Pope.*

There may have been periods in which men of genius and acquirement have by their influence, been able to substitute pompous and mystic learning, for ordinary and practical truths; yet splendid and attractive as they were, time was able to oppose their progress, though during their existence many errors might have been supported. With the flight of time, the intellectual mists of the age were carried off, and illustrates the remark, that useless learning defaces common sense. It is under such a state of subordination to authority, that many mistake terms for realities, and ascribe to the operations of philosophy or nature, the useless results of an artificial system. How different are the processes of man's weak and limited philosophy, from the silent workings of a universal law! how insignificant their object, when measured by the local and temporary wants of him who courts it, contrasted with the unchangeable essence of the other, which knows nor time, nor clime, nor space, nor person; the one being partial and ephemeral, the other general and eternal.

“Il y a cette différence entre les procédés de la nature et de la philosophie, que l'une emploie le concours de cinquante causes pour produire un seul effet,

et que l'autre veut toujours déduire cinquante effets d'une seule cause. De quelque côté que nous portions nos regards, nous trouvons partout les preuves de notre faiblesse et de notre enfance."—*Grimm's Correspondance Littéraire.*

When we reflect further upon the causes which operate to prevent a nearer approach to perfection in our judgment of this matter, we find that it is really because true taste turns itself towards objects of utility, and like the attention which most men give to the exact sciences, limits itself principally to what is necessary in life. We can only, after all our diligence, approach to a hypothetical position of accuracy, for it is beyond the power or ability of men to embrace all the moral causes which effect the existence and character of a writing; the same as we find that our deductions drawn from principles of pure mathematical science exhibit some discrepancies, when compared with the application to material substances. Thus, the deficiencies which sometimes appear, are not the faults occasioned by false judgment, or false taste, but proceed from a want of power, not characterizing one man, but such as is inherent in the order and construction of the human intellect, whereby men fail in filling up the form and being of a work which the imagination had sketched, and which abstractly considered, might be perfect and beautiful. * * * *

A VOYAGE ON THE UPPER MISSISSIPPI.

"From the broad margin to the centre grew
Shelves, rocks, and whirlpools, hideous to the view."—*Falconer.*

At sunrise on a lovely morning in June 1831, a deeply freighted steamboat was toiling, under a press of steam, against the mighty current of the Upper Mississippi, and clear and bright rolled the massy waves from her quarter as she moved steadily onward: the *Des Moines* rapids were in sight, and the noble vessel seemed to be collecting her powers for the struggle in which she was about to engage. She was now to encounter the great *father of waters* in his angry mood. Here, obstructed by the huge rocks which reared their rugged heads in his chosen path, and had continued for centuries to offer an unavailing resistance to his wayward course, the impetuous spirit of the Mississippi hurled the waters round, and rushed on in the pride of conscious might, o'erstriding all impediment, and threatening destruction to the idle adventurer who should vainly intrude on his domain. Yet even in his rage the proud river god, in accordance with the provisions of a greater and wiser power, pointed to a narrow and winding channel through which the bold and skilful pilot might in safety guide his bark, into deeper and calmer waters.

Long before the vessel we speak of reached these rapids, her captain had taken his station on the hurricane deck, immediately above the pilot at the wheel, where, with an anxious and watchful eye he scanned the well known shores. His anxiety was heightened by the low stage of the river, for it was doubtful whether there would be an inch of the foaming element between the keel of the boat and the sharp rocks over which her course lay.

A rise of water could not with any degree of certainty be counted upon; and other reasons besides interest contributed to confirm the captain in his resolution to attempt the passage at once, '*coûte qu'il coûte*.' The boat had on board ordnance stores and provisions destined for the United States' troops then concentrating at Fort Armstrong, on Rock Island, for the purpose of moving the Sac and Fox Indians to the lands allotted them on the west side of the river. And as it was reported that the disaffected Indians of several tribes were collecting in the vicinity of the Fort, with a determination to dispute the claim of the United States to the country then occupied by their allies, his obligation to the government, as well as his desire to see a free and safe communication restored upon the frontier, had determined him to spare no efforts which might conduce to the full and faithful discharge of his contract. "Will she go it, think ye, Mr. Smith?" he asked in an anxious tone of the pilot, as the boat neared the turbid waters. "I know not," the man replied doggedly, without moving his eye from the object on which it was fixed. "She must go it," returned the commander, pulling his cap closer over his brow, "give her headway, sir, and thump her over." At that moment the boat entered upon the boiling surface of the rapids, and the steam in the boilers was raised to the very highest mark the most daring engineer would allow. Thus urged, the quivering vessel staggered on, bouncing from rock to rock, and reeling from side to side in water scarcely deep enough to give her buoyancy. "You'll dash the boat to atoms here, sir, if you rush her on with this weight of steam," said the pilot, grinding to mummy the enormous *quid*, which for some hours past had been quietly reposing in the hollow of his cheek. "Slacken her headway then," returned the captain, "and let her work her way;" and as he spoke he thrust his arms into his breeches pockets, and made a hasty turn upon the deck. As a portion of the steam was now suffered to vent its force upon "the idle air," the boat for sometime made little or no progress; now grating and scraping along the rude channel, now hard and fast upon a wide shelving rock, whilst the wild waters flew by her like a cloud of arrows.

"D—n her, she wont mind the helm no more than my grandmother," muttered the pilot as he strained at the spokes of the wheel, while an eddy was carrying round the head of the boat, "and we shall drift broadside on that infernal point of rocks." "Go ahead then!" shouted the captain, and as he spoke a dense cloud of steam burst at once from the scape-pipe of the high pressure engine; the wheels at the same time felt the impulse,

and before they had made one revolution the boat regained her headway, swept by within a foot of the fearful rock, and the next moment was again vehemently buffeting the shoal but formidable current of the channel. Having encountered many dangers, and overcome many difficulties, the gallant vessel at length gained the deep bright waters, and exulting o'er the perils past, proceeded merrily on her voyage.

How striking and agreeable is the contrast between a voyage on the lower Mississippi and one upon its upper waters! There you have interminable swamps, dismally overshadowed with the everlasting cotton-wood, and swamp-willow, and the mind imbibes the dull monotony that is ever present to the eye. Here the constant change of scenery keeps the mind awake, and ever and anon draws the attention to some grand or novel sight.

After gliding for some time under the brows of rocky cliffs or shelving precipices, whose frowning aspect strikes awe into the beholder, he leaves the terrific, to contemplate the majestic scenery of this great river. Here rise from the water's edge immense prairies, whose velvet covering of the deepest verdure vies in its glossy smoothness with the nicest tended lawn, whilst a thousand wild flowers mingle their fragrance in the morning breeze. The eye follows the gradual slope or gentle undulation of the surface until, at the summit, the faint outline of the land is almost lost in the distance, and then conjecture is at work to depict the magnificent, the boundless prospect that lies beyond. Far more imposing, more soul-stirring, more absorbing is the first view of a boundless prairie, as it breaks upon the astonished sight of the traveller, as he gains this eminence,—far more sublime is it, we repeat, as well as more cheering, than the first view of the trackless ocean. Divest the latter of the associations of its vast extent, its depth, its matchless power when lashed into rage by the howling winds, and the unchanging prospect it presents to the corporeal eye, is not to be compared to the transcendent beauty and endless variety of the prairie.

Again and again as our voyagers followed the windings of the river, another and another prairie, separated from the last by a deep, impenetrable swamp, or a dark forest which overhung the bluff banks, broke cheerfully on the view, and with its scattered clumps of trees and silver streamlet reminded the spectator of the enchanted lands he had read of in some fairy tale. Then on his right he beheld a chain of high steep knolls, whose tops were verdant with vines and flowers, or crowned with majestic trees; while on his left a strip of rich, flat prairie stretched far back between the lofty hills that rose on either side, and looked like the chosen abode of plenty and security. Sometimes the Indian hunter on his mettled steed was seen in the open plain in search of game; and such is his dexterity as a marksman, that, when on his approach the deer bounces from its lair, he spurs after the fleet animal, and while at full speed rarely fails to bring it to the ground. Sometimes the hunter's camp, surrounded by his wives, his chil-

dren and his horses, was visible through an opening in the woods; at others the rude cross, formed of the unbarked boughs of the oak, indicated the sepulchre of the departed warrior, or the bark coffin, lashed with strong withes in the high crotch of some giant oak, marked the final resting place of his wife or child.

As the steamer was passing a small "white-settlement" at the Red Banks of Illinois, a "Sucker," as the frontier inhabitants of Missouri term their neighbors of the opposite State, appeared upon the bank, and with violent gesticulation begged to be taken on board. A boat was sent for him, and as he reached the deck of the vessel, he thus accosted her commander: "I say Captain, seeing I ha'n't no plunder (i. e. baggage) along, I reckon you thinks you wont make no great haul in me; but I've got the pewter about me, and the way it's easy for me to pay my passage is no man's business. But stranger, lets have a horn of your *bold-face*, if you've got the article aboard." "You will find what you want at the bar," replied the Captain; and thither the Sucker proceeded. The whiskey bottle having been set before him, he poured out what in frontier phrase is termed "a buck-load." Measuring the quantity with an experienced eye, ere he replaced the bottle on the counter, he remarked with a knowing cut of the eye, "rather a heavy charge, stranger," and with great deliberation was about to return the excess, when changing his mind suddenly, he exclaimed; d—nme, it's only a relative drink, any how," and so saying, tossed off the glass undiluted. Having paid his sixpence, he returned to the forward deck.

"Captain," said he, addressing him, with the familiarity of a seven years' acquaintance, "the way that them there Sac rascals know how to come over a fellow, is a caution I tell you. The devils is abroad now, and use about in open ground and they think to have their own fun; but wait till old Whitesides comes up with his battalion of spies, and the way that you'll see them break for tall timber is a sin to Moses." "Have the Sacs commenced hostilities?" inquired the Captain. "They wont fire the first gun," answered the Sucker, "but there's mischief working among them. I fell in with a camp, t'other day at the rapids; they came mighty near laying us out as cold as a wagon-tire; but the way I come Charley over 'em is no man's business." The Sucker then commenced his story, but as it would probably be scarcely intelligible to any but a frontier man, if repeated in the dialect in which it was told, we shall relate it in our own words. It appeared from his account that a few evenings previous, two keel-boats laden with merchandise, and bound to Galena, had hauled up for the night at a convenient spot some miles above the French-Indian, or Indian-French settlement at the *Des Moines* Rapids. While the crew of these boats were on shore preparing their evening meal, a party of Indians, professedly friendly, and averring to belong to Keokuk's division of the Sacs and Foxes, loitered round their fires, and with the unconquerable pertinacity peculiar to their race, pushed their inquiries in such a variety of shapes that they at length gathered

from the answers of their less subtle white brethren, the information they were so desirous to obtain—that the boats contained amongst other articles a quantity of red cloths, powder, whiskey, &c., belonging to the traders who resided with their old enemies the Sioux. When they had satisfied themselves on this point, they begged a bottle or two of whiskey of their “very good friends,” and retired to their own camp to drink it.

As soon as they disappeared one of the boatmen, who for many years had enjoyed the advantages of a friendly intercourse with the Indians on the Upper Mississippi, expressed to his companions his fears that all was not right. “These men,” said he, “are evidently Sacs; but so far from believing them to be of Keokuk’s party, I shrewdly suspect they belong to the British Band, under Black Hawk.” Hereupon a council of war was held and it being thought advisable to watch the motions of their late visitors, the speaker volunteered his services. As soon therefore as their own supper was finished and they supposed the “fire-water” had begun to do its office, with their neighbors, the Sucker, (for it was the same to whom we have already given the appellation common to the people of Illinois,) departed for the purpose of reconnoitring their camp. He found the Red Men already under the influence of the liquor they had drunk, and cautiously crawling towards their fire, the first words that saluted his ear, for he perfectly understood their language, convinced him that his suspicions were but too well founded. The Sacs were five in number, and one of them, apparently a brave of some distinction, was addressing his comrades to this effect, “My brothers,” said he, “the storm which has long been gathering in the South, is rolling on in heavy clouds which will soon burst over our heads; the braves of the pale faces are at this moment preparing to surround our towns; even now their watch fires illuminate the forests of our ancestors, their great guns are pointed, their long knives are bared, and they only wait the arrival of their horsemen to force us from the homes, the fair fields and the graves of our forefathers.” He paused, and his hearers hung their heads in silence and melancholy dejection. “You see before you,” he continued, “the canoes of the pale faces, filled with presents for our enemies the Sioux, who, fourteen moons past, under the pretence of offering the pipe of friendship to our tribe, faithlessly attacked our unarmed Chiefs, and immolated to the Evil Spirit, whom they serve, eleven of the noblest warriors of our nation. Answer me, my brothers! Shall the treasures of the pale faces reach their destination?” As the speaker concluded, the Sacs simultaneously sprang upon their feet, and a long and thrilling war-whoop was their answer to his question.

Their fierce looks and violent gestures too plainly indicated their purpose to require interpretation; yet the alarmed Sucker maintained his position in breathless anxiety to learn their plan of attack. When the excitement of the moment was over, the Sacs again seated themselves in council. It was decided that one of the party should immediately set out to collect a sufficient force

to insure success, and in the mean time, the others were to hover round the boats as they slowly ascended the river, and observe their motions until they reached a certain point, where a strong war-party was to await their coming. The plan of operations being arranged, the leader raised the bottle from the ground, scanned its contents with an eagle glance as he held it to the fire-light, then carried it to his mouth. The scout did not wait to see the flask make its round, but hurried to his friends with an account of what he had seen and heard. The boatmen were dumbfounded by this intelligence, and were divided in their opinions as to the course to be pursued.

"We treble 'em in numbers, it is true," said the Sucker, "but without arms we cannot attack them Sacs with a certainty that some on 'em won't escape, and raise all wrath agin us, and at any rate the runner, who has already started, will bring a pack of Red skins upon our track, that'll dog us till we get out of the settlement, and then the way they'll be down upon us is a caution." When the Sucker had delivered himself to this purpose, some of the party were in favor of proceeding on their voyage at once, and making the most of their time; others more timid, were for returning to the settlement. But the Sucker assured them they were in no immediate danger, and that they had nothing to fear before they reached the point designated by the Indians—some distance beyond the Red Banks—unless they should awaken the suspicions of the savages by a precipitate movement. He advised them to pursue their course as if nothing had happened, until they arrived at this settlement, where they might remain in safety until a convoy could be obtained from Fort Armstrong. At the same time he volunteered his services as a runner, and promised to meet them at the appointed place, with a sufficient guard to insure their safety. It was resolved to follow his advice, and the boats having been hauled out from the bank, and sentinels posted on deck, the crews went below to seek that repose which a hard day's cordelling had prepared them to enjoy. At day-light the Sucker was on his way to Fort Armstrong, and having slept at the Red Banks the night before he was introduced to the reader's acquaintance, he was about to resume his journey when the steamboat hove in sight, and he was taken on board in the manner related. The weather was charming, and the boat continued her course without interruption. That night, about the middle of the second watch, several of the passengers, unable to sleep, were loitering upon the deck. Nature was at rest, and no sound was heard but the deep intonation of the stream, and the quick, incessant splashing of the boat's wheels. The moon was at the full, and the night beautiful; the silent prairies on the left, smiling in the soft moonlight, were finely contrasted with the dark and frowning woodland that overhung and shaded the waters on the right. The air was redolent of the rich tribute of unnumbered prairie flowers, and Love and Poetry, as they accepted the offering, pronounced the hour to be their own. The silence was broken by the pilot calling to the captain. He

had discovered near the right bank, at some distance ahead, a canoe apparently adrift and floating with the stream; but suspecting it contained some Red skins, he asked if he should steer for it. He was directed to do so, and the steamboat immediately changed her course and began to plough the waves in the direction of an object, which gliding along in the shade of the woody bank, would, to an inexperienced eye, have passed for one of the numerous pieces of floating timber which are, at this season, borne seaward on the bosom of the mighty Mississippi. It was as the pilot had anticipated; and as the boat approached the object, the prominent prow of the canoe was discernible, but still no human form was visible. The courage of the midnight wanderers was constant, and firm to their purpose they lay perfectly concealed until another revolution of the wheels would have brought the steamboat upon them, and buried them with their canoe in the turmoil of waters that whirled and parted beneath her angry prow. Then, as it were by magic, five dark forms simultaneously appeared above the low sides of the hollowed trunk, and one simultaneous sweep of five light paddles, whirled the canoe like an arrow to the shore, where they sprang upon the rocks, and leaving their frail bark to the guidance of the current, disappeared in the thicket. As the steamboat was running close to the shore, she passed within a few yards of the spot, as the bushes closed upon the last of their dark figures. The next morning the pilot pointed out the mouths of Rock river, since become noted in Indian story, as the ancient haunts of the ruthless band of the celebrated Black Hawk. This river pours its tribute into the channel of the great father of waters, between deep flats, covered with an impervious growth of brushwood, above which the tall oaks wave their arms with a wild air of sovereignty. As the boat moved on, a glimpse was had of the Sac village, situated about two miles up the stream, and at that time the quiet abode of the fated tribe. Soon after, however, the attention of all was called to Fort Armstrong; and Horse Island, in other days the field of deadly strife, together with many minor objects of curiosity were passed with a transient notice. There, in open view, upon the southern iron-bound promontory of Rock Island, stood the proud little fort, with her red striped flag gallantly floating in the morning breeze. At that distance the fort had precisely the appearance of an ancient feudal castle, and at the water's edge a deep fissure in the precipitous rock, upon the very edge of which, the southern face of the fort stands, might easily have been mistaken for a subterranean sally-port, or an entrance to the donjon keep. While the three blockhouses that flanked the interior faces of the work looked not unlike the flanking towers of other ages. The boat came to just above the fort, when the plain of the island was discovered to be white with tents. A strong force of United States' Troops had already been concentrated at this point, and the General commanding, only waited the arrival of a brigade of mounted militia from the State of Illinois, to move the Sacs to their destined lands on the west side of the river; for sound

policy required that this measure should be deferred until he had a sufficient mounted force to protect the whole frontier.

The Indians had already assembled in council, and had boldly denied that they had ever authorized a sale of their lands, and as resolutely declared their determination never to leave them. They had been told, however, that the time had now arrived when it was absolutely necessary they should move: that the rapid advance of the settlement, now brought the whites and their red friends into constant collision, and that the peace of the frontier having been repeatedly interrupted of late, they could no longer be permitted to remain upon the government lands. But still they had not consented to give up the lands which they professed to consider their own. Another council had been called, at which they were to give their final answer; and just as the boat arrived, the Indians were seen landing on the opposite side of the Island, for the purpose of attending this meeting.

REVOLUTIONARY INCIDENTS,

Furnished from the recollection of actual spectators—and from American and English Gazettes of the days of '76.

NEWPORT, JUNE 21, 1776.

About a month ago Captain Biddle, of the "Andrew Doria," sailed from this port, and the next day he fell in with and captured a sloop from the West Indies, which was yesterday condemned as a lawful prize. Five days after, near the banks of Newfoundland, at day light, he saw two ships, and in one hour was in possession of them both, without even firing a musket. They had each about 100 soldiers on board, and were part of a fleet of 33 sail that left Scotland on the 3d April, with 3,000 troops on board, bound for Boston. Captain Biddle took out of them, four land officers, the masters, mates and crews, all their arms, ammunition, &c., and removed all the soldiers out of one ship into the other, so that in one ship were all the soldiers, and in the other, the officers and their ladies. He was obliged to keep them with him for 13 days, on account of contrary winds.

On the 14th day, at 4 in the morning, five sail of vessels gave him chase, upon which he ordered the ships to steer different courses, himself keeping near to the heaviest sailer;—but in about an hour, a squall of rain arose, and hid them from him, the ship with the soldiers on board altered her course, and about 11 o'clock, the weather then clear, was out of sight. Soon after, the pursuing vessels altered their course, as he did his in order to avoid them. At

6 o'clock, he saw another vessel right before and steering towards him, when he again altered his course, and at 8 o'clock (dark cloudy weather) he was about three leagues from the nearest of the vessels.

WILLIAMSBURG, JUNE 22d, 1776.

This morning captain James Barron came to town from Jamestown, with the agreeable news that he and his brother, in two small armed vessels, were safe arrived there with the "Oxford" transport, from Glasgow, having on board 217 Scotch Highlanders with a number of women and children, which they took last Wednesday evening on her way up to Gwyn's Island, to join Lord Dunmore. The people on board say that they are part of a body of 3,000 troops which sailed from Glasgow, for Boston, but upon hearing that place was in our possession, they steered their course for Halifax; that they had been taken by the "Andrew Doria," one of the continental fleet, who after disarming them and taking out all the principal officers, with such of the transport's crew as were acquainted with navigation, put eight of her own hands on board to bring her into port; but that the carpenter of the transport, formed a party and rescued the vessel from them, and was conducting her into Hampton Roads, when the two captains Barron very fortunately came across them and moored them safe in Jamestown, where they are now disembarking and are expected in town this day.

PROVIDENCE, JUNE 22d, 1776.

On Wednesday last the officers taken by Captain Biddle, out of the two transport ships from Scotland, arrived here and have since been conducted to a place of safety in the country, as were also a number of officers belonging to the British navy, who had been confined here for some time past.

REMARKABLE SUCCESS.

PHILADELPHIA, 7th Nov. 1776.

We are informed by authentic intelligence, that an American sloop of war of 12 guns and 70 men, sailed from the Delaware on the 21st of August. She cruised between the latitudes 39° and 33° North, and went to the Eastward as far as the longitude of 50° West, having taken three prizes, a whaler and two West Indians, and having had a very narrow escape from an English frigate, after a six hours' chase, part of the time within pistol shot.

On the 14th November, she bent her course to Nova Scotia, and on the 20th, had another action with an English frigate, and in the

course of an eight hours' chase ridiculed the enemy, answering his broadsides with a single musket only. The next day she went into Canso, and took three English schooners with a Scotch tory's flag, although the Savage, and Dawson's brig were within a short distance. The day following she took five sail of Jerseymen, in "Narrow Hook," and four more in "*Peter de Great*." It is remarkable that, although their men were in the proportion of 3 to 1, of ours, they were so panic struck, that they not only gave up their ships, but even assisted to rig and carry them out of their harbors. The sloop then proceeded to the westward, took another whaler on St. George's Bank, and on the 7th October, arrived safe at Rhode Island; having manned and sent in 8 prizes, viz: 6 brigantines, 1 ship, and 1 sloop; and sunk, burnt and destroyed 8 more, viz: 6 schooners, 1 ship, and 1 brigantine, and finished her cruise in 6 weeks and 5 days.

The following is from a London Journal of March 30th, 1776, and exhibits in strong colors, the kind of feeling with which some of the acts of the British government, in relation to the war of our independence, were received in England.

Previous to the departure of the foreign mercenaries for America, the sums stipulated for their hire and pay are to be advanced by Great Britain. The Prince of Waldeck and several of the German Princes, who have engaged to furnish troops, are expected in England. These Princes have a juster notion of the finances of England, than to permit their subjects to depart before they are paid for their hire. It is astonishing how any man could dream of sending cavalry to America. Only let us for a moment conceive, a dragoon with his bags, his bucket, his boots, his belts, his haversack, his cloak, his canteen, his broad sword and his carbine, galloping round a tree to catch an Indian or an *American rifleman*! It is a cow catching a hare!! The idea is laughable, if the consequences were not serious.

Early in the month of September, 1775, captain Squires, of the British sloop of war Otter, (then laying in Hampton Roads,) with a party of his officers, went into Back River, near Hampton, in one of the King's Tenders, on a fishing frolic. Whilst there, one of those sudden and violent gusts, which are sometimes experienced here, at that season of the year, came on and drove the Tender on shore. The captain and his party, aided by the pilot, (a black man, and a native of the town) after the storm had abated, succeeded in reaching their ship, in their boats, and very promptly demanded the immediate restoration of the Tender, which could not be complied with because the vessel had, in the interim,

been destroyed by a party of unauthorised young men. When the result of their demand was known to them, violent threats were made, which, added to other circumstances, induced the inhabitants of Hampton to make preparations for defending the town; which they did by sinking vessels in the narrow passage at the entrance of the creek, very imperfectly done, however, owing to the strength of the tide.

An attack seemed to be predetermined upon, and inevitable. On the 17th October, Squires anchored his ship as near to the mouth of the creek as practicable, and on the evening preceding the assault, a party landed and destroyed several houses near Hampton. The evidence of hostile intentions being now manifest, an express was despatched, at sunset, to the committee of safety at Williamsburg, and about sunrise next morning, although it rained tremendously all night, a company of mounted men arrived to protect the town. This furnishes some idea of the promptitude, ardor and patriotism, with which men acted in those days.

Captain Squires, who commanded the British party, in person, was enabled by cutting away the bowsprits of two or three of the partially sunken vessels, to enter the creek next morning, at very early dawn, with five of his tenders, and commence a brisk fire into the town, which was returned in a manner, characteristic of the intrepid Hamptonians, and compelled them to retire precipitately, with the loss of one vessel, the commander and crew of which escaped by jumping overboard and running along the beach to the mouth of the creek where they were taken off by some of the other vessels on their passage out. They would all inevitably have been captured, but for the accidental circumstance of a sudden change in the wind. It blew from the South when they entered, and changed round to the opposite point at the very moment when they found it necessary to retreat. When it was discovered that they were about to retire, a party was despatched by land to the mouth of the creek, to prevent their escape. When, however, they had proceeded but a short distance on their way, they were informed, either by design or accident, that another detachment of the English had landed, and were about attacking the town in the rear. This occasioned a momentary halt and some confusion, and completely favored the enemy's escape, for before the mistake could be corrected, the attacking party had cleared the creek, and were in safety.

CAPTAIN LANDAIS.

Every thing relative to the Revolution must be interesting to Americans. I therefore take pleasure in communicating to you, some characteristic notices of *Captain Landais*; the first commander of the old Alliance frigate, so glorious in her career during our struggle for independence.

PIERRE DE LANDAIS was a younger son of one of the oldest, poorest, and proudest houses in France. Through the influence of a school fellow, he procured a midshipman's warrant, and having studied the science of navigation, he became, in the course of ten or twelve years of practice, a pretty good sailor. It was not, however, until he was thirty-two years of age, that he became a lieutenant, in which rank he continued eight or ten years; when he had the mortification to see himself "*over-ranked*" by a sprig of a boy—the kinsman of a court mistress. It was too much for the high bearing and conscious worth of the sturdy Landais, and while he was meditating upon the affront, as a measure sufficiently outrageous to "rid himself of life by a bare bodkin," or to shoot his rival out of the way, the war of *our* revolution was announced, and a new field of enterprise was offered to the aspirations of Mr. Landais. Congress needed experienced officers, and it was peculiarly in keeping that the first commander of a frigate named in compliment to the hopeful alliance with France, should have a Frenchman to lead or to control her fortunes.

The brilliant affair of the "*Serapis*" and the "*Bon Homme Richard*," soon after took place; in which Paul Jones, by his *desperate gallantry*, covered himself with glory; while poor Landais, a thorough pupil of the old school, who had no idea of such an unsystematic way of fighting, got so bewildered, (as the story goes) that he could not for the life of him tell, which of the combatants it was his business to fire into; and after making two or three sad mistakes, concluded that his wisest course was to haul off, and leave them to settle the matter by themselves. The measure was prudent enough perhaps, but the result was unfortunate for this truly unfortunate man, in a long life of after neglect.

Paul Jones gave such an account of Landais' conduct, as led Congress to intimate to the poor fellow that they had no further occasion for his services; and although he explained his proceedings, upon the most approved principles of naval warfare, *to his own entire satisfaction!* he could not succeed in convincing the members of the committee, who looked at nothing but the glorious issue. He then took up his residence in New York, where he remained until his death in 1818; always, however, making a visit, every alternate year, to the seat of government, to present a memorial respecting the injustice of which he was the victim, and to claim restitution of his rank and arrears of pay; an application to which each succeeding Congress, with remarkable unanimity, returned an answer decidedly in the negative.

Notwithstanding his fatal misfortune, in the action just mentioned, "*Admiral Landais*"—for so he claimed to be—always considered himself an officer of the American navy, and however slighted by others, never abated his self-respect, nor the firm maintenance of his rank and dignity. To this end, he wore the American cockade to the last, and on the 4th of July, and 25th of November, always mounted his old continental uniform, although its *beauties* had faded, and its ample skirts almost swept the ground!

There is something touching, pathetic, and truly noble in the subsequent life and deportment of this philosophical man! something to extort our respect and veneration, in his own lofty dignity and devotion to his decapitated sovereign, Louis, XVI. "The fall of a great man, like death, canonizes his bones;"—and we, therefore, feel towards captain Landais, when old and venerable, the sympathy of compassion and favor, and we delight in reviving in the "mind's eye," the pictorial image of the old gentleman, as he appeared abroad in the streets of New York, some *twenty* years ago, a dignified relic of "*la vielle cour*." As recollected, his figure was that of a tall, thin man, exceedingly old, with a sharp *care-worn* visage (painful to tell) and deep sunken eyes; whose vivacity and fire, not even the frosts of foreshore winters had been able wholly to extinguish. His raiment betokened scanty means, but still it was the straightened circumstances of a gentleman; his linen, though not very fine, and probably forced to perform long service, was always clean; his long skirted coat of pompadour purple, was threadbare, but carefully brushed; and his stockings, though faded and yellow, were of fine silk; remnants of better and happier days!! His hair, or rather a few scanty locks that survived the ravages of time, were of silvery whiteness, and the bald places thickly covered with powder, a fact which occasioned no trouble to discover, for the veteran never appeared abroad with his old fashioned cocked hat in its legitimate station, *carrying it forever in his hand*, as a mark of homage and respect to, and in commemoration of the cruel death of his beloved sovereign; a measure to which he fondly doomed himself, and to which he tenaciously adhered through life, with a kind of religious veneration.

About twenty-five years ago, his daily appearance in Broadway, as I have described above, was as certain as the return of morning light, unless when his solitary walk was prevented by storms. In time, however, as he advanced in years and feebleness, his walks became less and less frequent, and more and more closely did he confine himself to his obscure lodgings, where he buried, as he might, the sense of his wrongs and his sufferings for a period of forty years!!!

His income was but little more than *one hundred dollars per annum*! derived from the proceeds of an investment of certain prize-money, and earned in the beginning of the Revolutionary war. Upon this he subsisted, as none but a Frenchman could, *with an independence as perfect, as though it had been thousands*. He refused all presents, even the most trifling, because he had not the means of reciprocating such favors, and it was with the most extreme difficulty that he could be prevailed upon to partake of a meal which was not paid for out of his own money.

A man so steadily consistent, so sternly self-possessed and independent, "scorning weak complaint, and steeling his heart against assailing circumstances," certainly deserves the homage and respect of his fellow men! It may impart a lesson of instruction to

many a lofty spirit, and teach the *self-constituted* philosopher, the virtue and dignity of patience and suffering.

Such was the virtuous Landais; but in what particular spot he lived, or how he died, is, to me, unknown. All that marks his last home, is a plain white marble slab, in the church yard of St. Patrick's cathedral, the inscription on which, may be thus translated: "To the memory of Pierre de Landais, formerly Rear Admiral in the service of the United States, who *disappeared* in June, 1818, aged 87 years.

FIRST CAMPAIGN OF AN A. D. C.

No. 8.

After the decapitation of the army at Stony Creek, and the cutting off, body and all, of the Beaver Dam detachment, Government seemed to think it necessary to turn over a new leaf, and, accordingly, having withdrawn the old General, sent to the south for a new one, who was supposed to be well fitted to perform this service. In the meantime, until the succedaneous Big Bug should arrive, the force of Fort George was directed to put itself to school in the drill and evolutions, taking care to be as inoffensive as possible, and engage in no affairs with the enemy, unless by compulsion, or where success should be as certain as that two and two make four.

Immediately after the Beaver d—n affair, as there was no knowing what the conquerors, flushed with success, might attempt, it was thought prudent to strengthen our position at Fort George, by arranging the camp in a more compact order, and drawing lines of circumvallation. Having many hands and spades, this work of prudence was soon accomplished; when finding a parapet with a pretty deep ditch on the outside of it, between us and the enemy, we went to sleep each night with comfortable assurance, that this obstacle would give reasonable warning of all approaches, and be likely to protect us from the fate of General Prescott, who was *Bartonized* during the revolution. One has many objections to going *sans culotte* either into fight or captivity. Indeed, night alarms became so common, that it was thought expedient to lie down, as Chickahominy said, all standing, and buttons were on duty night as well as day. There were only two officers in camp, who made it a boast, that they always "stripped to the buff" when they turned in; they were stafflings, of course, who had more than the ordinary leasure for dressing. Had they belonged to some of the regiments, which were accustomed to parade in a twinkling, they would often have been in the predicament of the militia offi-

cer, who being roused out of his bed on some such emergency, in the hurried confusion of the moment, first put on his chapeau, then his boots, and then his sword, his linen being the only ground-work of his cap-a-pie equipment.

Our chain of piquets stretched around from the Niagara river to the Lake, being about three quarters of a mile in advance of each avenue, and defining the boundaries of that remnant of our late conquests, over which we still claimed jurisdiction. We had given up all but this fragment—a scanty township; and it became a point of honor to hold on to this. In any other than this point of honor view, it was of little importance. On the other side of the river, we should have been much more safe and conveniently posted. But, to have gone there, would have been an unequivocal retreat. All our military casuistry scarcely convinced the parson's daughter, or the country, that the fall-back from the "Forty" was any thing else. Recrossing the river would have been such a plain, down-right running away, that no one had the hardihood to propose it. Stay where we were we must, even if we died in the last ditch, and we all subscribed to this sentiment, though we hoped to be excused from a practical illustration of it.

The enemy gradually drew in upon us, and, after a short time, established piquets in opposition to each one of ours, the sentinels of which were almost in sight of each other. This very close vicinage, however, did not take place until after many skirmishes had dyed the intermediate grounds with considerable blood. We had a body of cavalry with us, which was constantly calling for hay and oats. These articles were very scarce within our immediate jurisdiction, and it became necessary to resort to fields of the Canadian farmers without the chain of piquets. A party, armed with sythes, rakes, and pitch forks, was accordingly despatched to those fields every day or two, with directions to gather in the crops thereof, but to do it in a peaceful and husbandman-like manner, paying the farmer, should he be present, (an unlikely thing in those unsettled times,) therefor. The ostensible party was of this agricultural character; but, lest the enemy should not consent to this reaping where we had not sown, those non-combatants were not left to rely alone on these farming utensils for defence. It was endorsed by a detachment of infantry, and generally, a piece of light artillery, which, however, were to keep in ambush near, provided the enemy did not molest our husbandmen in their rural labors. But this molestation was almost sure to take place, and a skirmish generally ensued among the terms, (which afforded very good *points d'appui*,) leading to the expenditure of much powder and some blood. Those who remained in camp, hearing such a pother in the woods, were often led to believe, that there must have been a pretty general slaughter all around, and were surprised to find nearly all hands returning as safe and sound as they went out. But it was said the loss had been principally on the side of the enemy.

Had the loss to the enemy on these occasions, been only the grass and unripe grains which we thus appropriated under the law.

of necessity, our consciences would not have been importunately compunctious, nor would our good name have suffered materially. But these skirmishes were frequently accompanied by conflagrations, which were attributed, perhaps unjustly, to the Canadian volunteers, who generally went out with these foragers. Often the retiring party would see that the humble dwelling of the unfortunate farmer, whose fields we had been under necessity of thus plundering, was left in flames. No one could point out the hand which had applied the torch, but all believed that a motive to such miserable warfare could be found in the breasts of those only who had some private and local feuds to avenge. Even the church, which was on the skirts of the village of Newark, at last fell under this covert and malicious hostility. It had been converted in the unrespecting hurry of the landing of the 27th of May, into a hospital, and deep stains of blood were on its holy aisles. It had, however, been purged of this involuntary desecration, and though no one went up to worship there, yet most of us regarded it as an object worthy of veneration, or at least, of protection. One bright evening, before any alarm could be given, this church was bursting with flames. There was a cry of indignation throughout the camp, and could the Ephesian wretch of an incendiary have been designated, his carcase would have broiled out an expiation on a pyre of his own raising. It was with exquisite mortification we saw the perpetration of a deed, which would involve the camp, in spite of all the disclaimers and disavowals, in the deep reproach of waging the sacrilegious war of barbarians; and we all, (who were versed in the Psalms) said in the bitterness of our hearts, "may all runagates continue in scarceness."

About these times a party of Indians had joined the camp from the tribes near Buffalo, headed by the famous "Farmer's Brother." It was desirable to make them useful, and an irruption towards the enemy was concerted, in which they were to bear a part. A body of regulars and of the Canadian volunteers accompanied them with a view of capturing one of the enemy's piquets. This main object was not accomplished, from some untoward circumstances which are always in the way to thwart events. But the day was not without its luck. In approaching the positions of the enemy, our Indians were accidentally met by some of his red allies, who, not being aware that we had auxiliaries of that color, mistook them, in the shadowy movements of the wood, for a detachment of their own tribe, and drew near with a want of precaution, which they soon had good reason to repent. The Farmer's Brother, seeing their probable error, favored it with many stratagems, until he had lured them within close rifle distance, when, backed by the regulars, he undeceived them in a way that left no doubt in their minds. Several fell dead on the spot, and as many more surrendered.

At a previous council, these Indians had conventioned to commit no rapes on the lock, and they fulfilled their covenant, all the dead being left with as good heads of hair as the living had brought in to the field. Not a scalp was brought in, except by one Indian,

who had been educated at one of our colleges. As he had probably never seen blood shed in battle before, and was practically as unacquainted with the customs of savages in war as any of his brother graduates of a lighter complexion, we set this act of his down to an ungovernable instinct. But though they agreed to refrain from scalping, they did not bind themselves to take no cords, for the purpose of tethering such prisoners as might fall into their hands. It afterwards appeared that such a provision had been made, and, after the skirmish, before the captives could look around, each one had a halter on his neck, and was led off under a strong belief that a gallows was near at hand. They were not undeceived, as no great love was entertained by us for them. But no harm happened to them, excepting a few uncomfortable apprehensions. They were towed into camp with much exultation on the part of the Buffaloites, and delivered over to the proper authority, which unhaltered them, and assigned them close quarters in Fort Niagara.

A day or two after, a flag came in from the enemy, rebuking us for having incarcerated one of his majesty's provincial captains with common savages. The flag was answered, that a man is generally known by the company he keeps; that all the captives appearing in breech-cloths and leggins, the color of the skin had not been particularly regarded; that they seemed to be birds of a feather, and had been locked up together; but that, since one of them was acknowledged a commissioned officer of his majesty, he would be respected accordingly.

One of the active agents in this successful little affair, was the chief of that band of mounted volunteers, which had been caught, *inter alias*, in the Beaver d—n trap, some weeks before. His re-appearance in our camp, without the intervention of an exchange, after his well-known captivity, had excited no small wonderment. Supposing he and his luckless troopers were on their way to Montreal, with a fair opportunity to report to the captive Generals there, they had been dismissed from all minds, as being too irretrievably out of sight even to enter them again. "Poor fellows!" once or twice uttered, exhausted about all the sympathy their fate commanded.

One bright morning, when the whole camp, (not probably excepting even six, for it was a time of leisure,) was looking out on the lake, in order to catch a glimpse of our fleet, then known to be in chase of Sir James Yeo, the clear-sighted or nautical eyes began to hint that boats were rising upon the watery horizon. As such craft was as little expected in that quarter as such an animal, those who had not such optics sharp, laughingly said, "very like a whale." But, notwithstanding his credulity, every one kept a bright look out, until certain dark spots became obvious to the commonest vision. Such an extraordinary and unaccountable sight was worth a month's pay in camp. It at once gave full swing to every imagination, producing an excitement that was luxury after a dearth of all piquant novelty. In the outset, conjectures,

as to the character of these hardy little navigators, were hazarded with diffidence. But, when once an opinion had been started, the author appeared to think he must sustain it; and, in a short time, the camp was in a fever of conflicting opinions. Luckily the boats, two in number, soon approached the mouth of the Niagara, putting to rest all doubt as to their being friends. As they passed up to the usual landing, the chief of the volunteers was seen seated in the stern sheets of the headmost, with all that sort of triumph in his look and the cock of his hat, which the most modest man cannot help showing, when he knows he has achieved something worth speaking of.

He landed amid a crowd of the most complimentary density, and, leaving to minor mouths the task of gratifying the curiosity of subordinate ears, he marched strait to head quarters, and there, as in duty bound, related, in all its freshness, the whole affair. Its purport was, that he and a part of his volunteers had been embarked in two boats for York, Upper Canada. There was a small guard in each boat, which, being well armed, felt much contempt for their unarmed captives, notwithstanding their great superiority of numbers. The grog of this guard was placed in the boat which the officer of the guard occupied; and our volunteer, who had a quick eye, and could calculate chances with more expertness than his enemy probably give him credit for, saw, while he reclined with apparent carelessness in the stern-sheets, that each time this grog was to be issued, the boats came in contact, and the soldiers, with their muskets between their legs, thought of little else besides the dram that was to fall to their portion. Having duly noted all these circumstances, the enterprising captive resolved, in his mind, that a rescue could be achieved. He accordingly communicated, as intelligibly as nods and winks and signs could do, his wishes and intentions to his fellow bondsmen, and trusted to the force of example, when the moment for action should arrive, for the rest. Fortunately, it was a sultry day, and grog-time came around pretty often. When matters had been matured as well as the constant and immediate supervision to which they were subjected would admit, and the two boats, according to custom, were cheek by jowl, and the guard, overcome by the heat, had their eyes half shut with languor and their mouths wide open with thirst, and were lolling on the thwarts, impatient for their turn, the officer of the guard, who was seated all unsuspectingly by his chief captive, suddenly found himself throttled and pinioned with an iron grasp, which rendered his sword as harmless as a lady's fan: while his soldiers, by an equally sudden turn of fortune, were reduced to the same state of subjection, their muskets having changed hands in the twinkling of an eye. It was no time for hesitation. The officer of the guard concluded to submit to a shift of scene; when the boats were put on a new tack, and the red coats very quietly but sullenly took their turn at the oar.

This gallant little achievement put the whole camp in good humor, though the regulars were somewhat mortified that it had not

fallen to the lot of one of their own cloth. We still hoped that some of them, if placed in a similar predicament, by a similar *volti subito*, would convert grog time into a moment of triumph; and often looked out on the waters in faint expectation of seeing the hope verified. But we strained our eyes in vain. The captive regulars either had not as good chances for a rescue, or had not the same spirit in improving them as the enterprising volunteers.

The movements of the army had been made, in a great measure, dependent on those of the fleet. When that went into harbor, after crossing at Fort George, in order to increase and multiply the army, except for such wild-goose-chases as had been made up to the "Forty," was considered pretty much at a stand until it should re-appear. Having added to his force out of the dock-yards of Sacket's Harbor, so as to sum up a match for Sir James, our Commodore came forth again, with a challenge at his mast-head, to fight his antagonist at all times and in all places, wind and weather permitting. Sir James had his force condensed within about a half a dozen vessels, all of which were tolerable sailers; while the force of our fleet was scattered and diluted among a dozen or more, great and small. The aggregate weight of metal was also in favor of the enemy. Two or three of our vessels were brisk sailers, but several of them were mere scows in this respect, and moved through the water as if they ground the bottom. These laggards were, of course, always far behind or in tow. Our Commodore could overtake Sir James with his van almost at any time. But this van alone was no match for Sir James, and it would not do to get entangled with such odds against one. The only alternative, therefore, was to carry double, sometimes treble. Under such an extra weight, an Eclipse would be reduced to a cart-horse. It was obvious from all this, that no fight could take place without the full consent of Sir James, whose eagerness for circumnavigation seemed to leave him no leisure for such matters.

One of the evenings of a day in which we had seen the usual chase pass by, and the fleet was fresh in every mind, the gathering clouds betokened one of those squalls which are common on the lakes, and sometimes appear to turn them bottom upwards. We all apprehended that some of the vessels might follow the waters in this topsy-turvy humor; and the next morning looked out with great anxiety, to count the vessels, should they heave in sight. It was not long before the fleet appeared, with two schooners missing. We were satisfied it had not been a night for combat, or any other struggle than with the elements, and that the loss must be set down to the squall, rather than the enemy. So it proved.

We all recollected the young officer who commanded one of the unfortunate schooners. He had but recently come up from the seaboard, with all the polish of metropolitan gentility about him, exhibiting a contrast with most of the lake-worn tars, that made him a conspicuous mark of observation. Perhaps he had felt too much contempt for the winds of the fresh waters on which he had just been cast, supposing that only topsail breezes wafted

over them; and, on this night, he may have permitted his unreefed canvass to stand too long, and been convinced, when it was too late, that Boreas cracked his cheeks there as well as on old ocean. But, if his mistaken presumption involved his crew in imminent peril, it is said that he nobly redeemed his error, by relinquishing to them the first and almost only chances of safety. After his schooner had fallen on her beam ends, and showed no disposition to right again, he is represented to have taken his seat on the waters, and directed such of his men as his boat could carry, to embark, and proceed to the nearest vessel for assistance, resolved to be among the last to be saved. This boat was soon taken up by one of the schooner's consorts, which immediately turned its course in anxious search for the wrecks. But it was all in vain that it tacked, and veered, and scanned each passing wave with intense scrutiny. Either the dark shadows of the night wrapped every thing from view, or the deep had already swallowed up its prey. When the eye became mocked with disappointment, the ear strived to catch, amid the fitful howlings of the tempest, some cry of distress, that might give direction to the search. But the ear was baffled like the eye. Nothing was heard but the roar of conflicting elements, and the next morning, when the surface of the lake was open to the furthest gaze, there was nothing visible to show that the fair-haired WINTER, or his vessel, had ever floated upon it.

This loss made the disparity of strength so decidedly in favor of Sir James, that we now feared it would be our Commodore's turn to run. But we soon perceived that, though two of his best schooners, and some of his best fellows, besides many tons of his metal, had gone to the bottom of the lake, his inclination to fight had suffered no corresponding diminution. He still sought out, with the same perseverance, the enemy, who still continued to avoid him, as if his vessels had been so many sunken rocks. The hope, however, was now strengthened that he might be more approachable, and the Commodore came to anchor off the Niagara, to solicit a little land-lubber aid from the army. A detachment was cheerfully accorded to him, which was distributed through the fleet, to act as marines, and serve in case of boarding, could Sir James ever be caught in such juxta-position as to admit of such a transaction.

This detachment embarked on this amphibious duty with great readiness and asked only one favor of the Commodore, which was, that he would do his fighting on an even keel, and when the waters were so smooth as not to be likely to disturb a land-stomach. Sea-sickness and fighting were incompatibilities; as much so, said the Chickahominy wag, as whistling and gaping. The army now felt a new interest in the fleet, being, as it were, partners in the concern. Without being so vain as to attribute the want of success previously to the want of such auxiliaries, we could not help thinking, that, now they were on their decks, the

Commodore would stand a chance or two better for success—provided always, that he sought for it when waters and stomachs were calm.

Not long after this embarkation of a part of the army in the same bottom with the navy, there occurred one of the finest evenings in the fine month of August. We had a moon over head, which left the night little behind the day in all the conveniences of light. The tattoo had already hushed the hubbub of thousands of voices into comparative silence, and few appeared without their canvass dwellings, save the guards, and such romantic youths as had, perhaps, made vows to their distant mistresses, that they would cast a sentimental eye on the heavens whenever there should happen "such a night as this." It was about 10 o'clock, P. M., when bang! went a loud report on the lake, which at once awakened every ear to heed, and convinced us all that Sir James had at last been caught within tangible distance. The echo of this first report had not died away on the silvery waters, when another and yet another succeeded, with reverberations that filled the heavens above, the earth beneath, and the waters on the earth. We all settled in our own minds that it was becoming a general action, and the volleying thunders occasionally gave strong proof that such was the case. We listened with an interest that became intense; of course, persuading ourselves that all the success was on our side, and that each intermission was filled up by a surrender, and a taking possession—the former being always done by the enemy, and the latter by our fleet.

By this process of consideration, Sir James had been all, or nearly all, captured by the time the firing ceased, which was about 1 o'clock, A. M.

The following morning was boisterous, chilly and of an ill-omened aspect. As we buttoned up our coats, and looked out on the white-capped lake, some of us began to lose a little of that confidence in victory on our side, with which we had retired to rest late the night before. We did not feel that assurance of a large dividend from the glory of the night's work, which, as one of the joint concern that had achieved it, we had permitted ourselves to anticipate; and when the headmost vessel appeared, coming down the lake, we were willing to compound with fortune, and rest satisfied with the entire safety of our own fleet, without asking any spoils from the enemy. The woods which skirted the lake shore exhibited the vessels only in detail, and it was some little time before we were able to count up, and ascertain the number present. At last all hove in sight, save two of the schooners. We waited for those until due allowance had been made for dull sailing, the disabilities of fight, &c., when, being still missing, we were compelled to conclude that they had followed either the two schooners, which had been previously sunk, or Sir James; the last being the most probable alternative.

While the main body of the fleet continued on, two of the schooners turned into the mouth of the Niagara, very much to the

relief of our impatient curiosity. They reported, that our Commodore had, the afternoon previous, discovered Sir James becalmed under the southern shore, while a fine breeze was wafting him in that direction, as if amends were about to be made for his antecedent ill-luck. We were having the weather-gage, and the promise of being able to pick and choose the mode of combat. Those wings, which had enabled the enemy thus far to elude our grasp, were now apparently clipped. He was as stationary as if he had been charmed to the spot, or as if his anchors had taken inextricable root in the bottom of the lake.

But winds are proverbially fickle. In this case, just before our fleet had got within fair gun-shot of its prize, the wind came to the right about, and completely reversed the advantages of the position. The water breeze seemed to go down with the sun, and the land breeze to rise with the moon. This land breeze was a more efficient auxiliary to Sir James, than the British army, which was on the shore near at hand, would have been, even if it had been able to walk off to him in its place. His shrunk and corrugated sails at once swelled out in all the pride of bettered fortune, and the vessels, which before had looked like fixtures on the water, were now seen moving onward, as if rejoicing in their liberation.

Such a sudden change of circumstances might have justified our fleet in playing the runaway this night, leaving to the enemy the novel task of a stern chase. But our Commodore was willing to accept the combat for better or for worse. He would have preferred the weather-gage, but was resolved that the want of it should be no impediment in the way of a fight. He made signals for concentrating his force, to suit the reverse of circumstances, and determined to await the issue, the preliminaries of which were now in the hands of Sir James. These signals were obeyed by all, excepting two of the schooners, which, through some misapprehension or presumption, suffered themselves to be so detached from the rest, that Sir James, having the winds under his thumb, just bore down upon them, and swooped them up, as a shark disposes of little fishes.

Being satisfied with this prey, Sir James immediately fell into his old non-combatant humor, and edged out of the way as fast as he could. This affair, which postponed the decision of the great question of Lake supremacy, placed the army, so far as its movements were dependent on the navy, more in statu quo than ever. It was evident that the fleet had its hands full, and that we must be left to our own resources for locomotion.

Remarks on the present state of the Artillery of the United States.

If we compare the artillery of the United States to that of France, England, and other European powers, we shall be lead to confess that it is very defective both in its material and personal.

Great improvements have been made in the organization of the French artillery since the general pacification of Europe, and more particularly within the last six years. Men, distinguished for eminent acquirements in the arts and sciences, have been induced to turn their attention to the subject. Officers of artillery have been rewarded with promotion, and splendid medals, for valuable essays on subjects relating to their profession, and prizes of several hundreds of dollars, held out for the best treatises on subjects of a difficult and intricate nature. Talent, when discovered, has been duly rewarded and fostered, however humble the situation of its possessor.

That nation has been amply rewarded for this wise, liberal, and munificent course. Its artillery is composed of the best organized material in the world, and of officers, full of spirit and intelligence, who thoroughly understand its construction and use.

If we now turn to the United States, and ask for an exhibition of their artillery, we must naturally look to the arsenals and posts for the material, and to our four regiments, for the personal. This material will be found composed of all patterns, from the most primitive down to the most recently improved. As to the personal it is presumed that, in general intelligence, the officers who compose it, are not surpassed; but it must be confessed that the opportunities of many of them for becoming acquainted with the details of their profession, have been quite limited.

In the Military Academy the course of artillery instruction has been struggling along without much, if any, encouragement from government, and gradually increasing since 1825. Great difficulties have been encountered in procuring the necessary material, and suitable buildings. In enlarging and systematizing the course, it has been attempted to assimilate it, as far as practicable, to the course of instruction given in this branch at the school of Metz, in France. Of course, the state of artillery instruction, here, will be dependent in a great measure upon that of the army; if the material be defective, and the drill without system, these evils cannot be remedied here. The department has not the position it deserves in relation to the other military departments; and, in justice to the artillery of the army, this ought to be corrected; for instance, the relative importance of engineering, infantry tactics, and artillery, is represented by the numbers *three, two, one*. (See the 65th paragraph, regulations of the Military Academy.)

Now as regards the instruction at artillery posts, it is believed there are few, with the exception of Point Comfort, which make any pretension to a course of instruction going beyond the mere drill of a few field pieces; which, however well qualified the officers

and men may be to perform their ordinary duties as infantry, it must be confessed, will leave them sadly deficient in the important duties of their own profession.

It is said that at some posts, the French drill as translated by an officer of artillery, is in use; at others, Lallemand's; and again at another, the system adopted for the militia. It would be difficult to determine which of these systems, if any one, has been adopted for the regular army. It is not intended to discuss their respective merits. Lallemand's is vague and ill-defined; and that for the militia, very good as far as it goes, is too circumscribed, being confined merely to the exercise of field artillery. No system should be adopted as presented by an individual, whatever be his merit. It should be the elaborated production of a board of officers, thoroughly acquainted with their profession, who would be willing to labor industriously and perseveringly in the accomplishment of their object.

The present state of the artillery is the more to be deplored when we consider the intimate connexion of artillery with military engineering, which has been steadily improving for many years past. The question might with propriety be asked, why build so many extensive and valuable forts, without rearing up at the same time a body of men, who shall possess the scientific and practical information requisite for their defence? Without such men they will speedily fall into the hands of an enterprising enemy; and instead of being points of defence to protect our coasts and shelter our fleets, they will become strong holds in which an enemy may quietly organize his forces, assail the interior, blockade our harbors, and keep our fleets wandering without supplies upon the ocean.

It has been rumored, from time to time, that improvements were taking place: that such an officer was about to introduce something new in the mode of fabricating guns: and again, that another had *improved* upon the French system of constructing gun-carriages, &c. &c. In short, hitherto these *improvements* have been carried to such an extent, that the material of artillery at one post does not always resemble that at another.

It is absolutely requisite, as the first step towards a proper organization, that the material in all its branches be unalterably fixed. Without this there can be no unity of purpose; and consequently no stability, or permanence. Innovations must not be mistaken for improvements: the latter are seldom made, the former are every day proposed.

It may appear hazardous to say that no essential improvements have been made in the material of artillery since the times of Valliere and Gribeauval; the assertion is, nevertheless, with few exceptions, true.

Allusion to the defects of our artillery is not made for the sake of finding fault, but simply to urge the importance of organizing a system of material, based upon true principles; and adopting systems of drill corresponding to the various services of artillery;

before any useful results can be looked for in the way of skilful practice.

To effect any permanent improvement in its condition, it is suggested whether some such measures as the following should not be taken:

1st. *To organize the material of Artillery, fulfilling the important conditions of lightness, solidity, uniformity and simplicity.*

All that is here suggested, it is presumed, will soon be effected by the board of ordnance, and the ordnance corps.

2d. *To adopt a system of drills and manœuvres, embracing all practical Artillery duties.*

The performance of this labor should devolve upon a board composed entirely of artillery officers, one or two from each regiment, with a presiding officer of rank.

These two objects accomplished, it becomes necessary,

3d. *To regulate the practice of Artillery:* that is, to establish rules for the service of cannon in general, in all the operations of war. This also must be the work of a scientific and intelligent board of artillery officers. The objects which they would have to accomplish, depend upon the higher branches of the mathematics, and experimental philosophy; therefore, the officers composing this board should be well versed in the science of ballistics. They would have to calculate and arrange tables for firing all kinds of cannon.

This board should further be required to draw up a synopsis of a course of instruction to be studied and practised by every artillery officer.

4th. *To arrange a course of military pyrotechny.*

As pyrotechnic preparations are usually made in the arsenals of the ordnance corps for the use of the artillery, it seems expedient that this board should be composed of one artillery and two ordnance officers.

It is granted that the labors thus hinted at are very great, and that it would require much patience and perseverance to accomplish them; still they must be faithfully performed before it can be said that the artillery of the country is placed upon a respectable footing. We must not doubt for moment that our artillery possesses the requisite talents for the performance of this work: it is only necessary to call out this talent and give it a proper direction, and the object will be successfully accomplished. By a judicious division of labor, the work will be sooner done, and each board will be emulous to perform the part assigned it in the best possible manner. The officers of one board might compose part or the whole of another board; and, thus, carrying on the work in detail, their experience in one branch would render their services important in the next.

For obvious reasons the work should be assigned, principally, to artillery officers. Taking them from each regiment, while it would give no cause of jealousy, would create industry and emulation among the members of the board, and foster a proper esprit du corps.

The systems recommended by each board, should be published, as far as practicable, that they might be thoroughly exposed to criticism; for measures of this importance should have the utmost publicity, and their claim to public confidence should be carefully investigated. But when confirmed and adopted by the Government, the systems should be deemed unalterable. K.

PORT MAHON.

The three days of rejoicing are over,—the inhabitants of Mahon are quietly plodding on in their usual style,—the evergreens, the decorations, have been taken down,—the illuminations have ceased,—the music and the dancing girls are heard and seen no more,—Isabel Segunda has been proclaimed Regña de España; the military have sworn allegiance, and the priests have sung their Te Deum, the bells have tolled their merry chime, and the organ, the great organ of Mahon has ceased its lively airs—its thousand notes of gladness have died away—and the monks, the priests, have resumed their down-cast, sorrowing look.

A week or two since, a party of us took a ride to Mount Toro. On its summit stands a monastery erected 338 years ago, by the monks of the order of St. Augustine. In a recess of a rock on this mount was found an image of the Virgin, which being taken to the church in Mercadel by the monks, was found next morning in the rock from which it was taken, and for three successive days it was carried to Mercadel and conveyed by some unknown hands to the mount where it was discovered by a light seen at night. The path by which the monks ascended was shown them by a bull; hence the name, Mount *Toro*—this story is believed by the peasantry. They built a church and monastery on the spot, and the monks showed us the crevice in the rock, which is now within one of the niches of the church, and is kept white-washed, to prevent the people from scraping it away to mix with their medicines. We took with us a collation, which was spread out for us by the brotherhood in their feasting hall. They received us with hospitality and kindness, showed us through the building, played several airs for us on their organ; the Spanish constitutional march was called for and given by the organist with a smile, declaring they felt their power and influence gradually departing. They have a signal tower on the top of the building, from which we had a fine view of the Island, its harbors, villages and cities, rugged hills and cultivated valleys—the deep blue Mediterranean Mare—and Majorca in the distance. No sail was to be seen on the wide waste of waters around; all was calm and smooth and

quiet as an infant's sleep. Not so in "Biscay's sleepless bay," where our gallant ship was tempest-tossed for three days, and the ocean maddened by the breeze; its gigantic waves arose, roaring, foaming with their winding sheets on high, ready to engulf us in their cold embrace; but our ship, sustaining the high character she had heretofore won as a good sea boat, bore us proudly and safely o'er

"Hills of seas, Olympus high,
Then duck'd again as low as hell's from heaven!"

We have occasionally one of the severe gales this sea is subject to, at this season; but generally the weather has been remarkably fine; winds of gentlest wing have fanned this land-lock'd harbor; and altogether we may call it such as our Indian summer in the United States.

"How calm, how beautiful comes on,
The stilly hours when storms are gone;
When warring winds have died away."

We amuse ourselves on shore with all the little variety we have it in our power to partake of. I have visited Fort San Philip—once the pride of Spain, and perhaps one of the strongest, most extensive and safe fortifications in the world. The excavations run for miles and the ruins have a romantic cast, but the ball-piled pyramid, and the long brass pieces have been removed. Wheat and barley are now growing, where once strutted the Spanish soldier, proud of his country and of her former glory. Of the present—silence. England, too, has some unhappy reminiscences of this spot; it recalls to mind the unfortunate Byng—his death—and the disgraceful conduct of the ministry. On my return from San Philip, I took a glance at St. Peter's cove—a charming spot—to sit and muse, and gaze on hoary rocks o'erarching the green fields on the margin of the cove,—on grey ruins—and retired gardens of the orange and pomegranate. The ocean may rave and dash its angry waves against the rocks without, but all is calm and noiseless within St. Peter's. No storm disturbs the limpid waters—the fish have their gambols—the water pink spreads forth its blossom, and the sea star lights up the rocks beneath; 'tis a lovely and loving place. How long delighted the stranger fain would have linger'd, to gaze on and chat with the 'dark-eyed one' he accidentally met at the garden, gathering the golden fruit. His coal-black steed became impatient; loosening the rein, the steed sprang up the flinty path, and as we wound around the hill, I cast a lingering look at this romantic cove;—not at the sparkling eyes of the nut-brown maid in the orange grove. I am very fond of handsome eyes, and have seen occasionally a very pretty pair beneath the image of the virgin at the Cathedral. This church contains the great organ of Mahon and of the world; it must be forty or fifty feet high, has 1400 pipes, large and small,—bells and trumpets—imitates the human voice. They played 'Hail Columbia,' with great effect on it—Here we meet, too soon to part—several waltzes and a set piece

called 'the storm,' with which I was highly gratified. The soft, sweet, soothing sound at the commencement; the sharp, quick, cracks of the near thunder; and the powerful, almost overpowering, full deep tones of the heavy rolling; the church, and spacious buildings, seemed shaken to its foundation; and then succeeded the low distant rumbling, till all was hushed, was still—the storm had ceased. I stood within the silent church, gazing amazed at this wonderful piece of mechanism. P.

*U. S. Ship Delaware,
PORT MAHON, January 23d, 1834.*

STAFF OF THE ARMY.

MR. EDITOR:—A writer, in the last number of your Magazine, over the signature of "Justitia Fiat, &c." has attempted a reply to my remarks on the right of staff officers to retain their rank in the line, which appeared in the March number.

As he has scarcely touched the argument which was then presented, on the general principles involved in the inquiry, I should be content to leave the question to the impartial judgment of the army, without further comment, were it not for the formidable array of names, dates, and circumstances, which he has brought forward, and which, though for the most part irrelevant, might have weight with some of your readers, if allowed to pass unnoticed.

Junius, in one of his pithy letters, in reply to Sir William Draper, says: "I am sorry to tell you, Sir William, that your facts are false; and as there is nothing more painful to me than to give a direct contradiction to a gentleman, I could wish that in your future publications, you would pay a greater attention to the truth of your premises, before you suffer your genius to hurry you to a conclusion."

"Justitia Fiat," may, for aught I know, be quite as great a man as Sir William Draper; but, as it would be extreme vanity in me to fancy myself capable of wielding one of the lightest weapons of Junius with effect, I will do no more, on the present occasion, than commend this passage to the especial attention of my adversary, while I proceed to notice, briefly, some of his erroneous statements of facts, misquotations of law, and the misapplication of both, in his argument.

I am glad we have at length discovered the hinge on which this long invoked decision against the rights of staff officers is to be made to turn. It is now stated, that "the law of 1821 makes no provision for the adjutant general to retain his rank in the line of

the army, and the absence of such a provision is tantamount to a positive law to the contrary." This objection was anticipated in my former remarks, and, as I thought, conclusively answered; but "Justitia Fiat," while he repeats the objection in terms sufficiently dogmatical, carefully avoids any argument in support of it. He shall not escape, however, from the consequences of his own doctrine; and I ask him to tell me, under what law, half a million of dollars are annually paid to invalid pensioners and the widows and orphans of deceased officers and soldiers? The law of 1821 makes no provision for them, and according to "Justitia Fiat," "the absence of such a provision is tantamount to a positive law to the contrary." I ask him also to tell me, under what law have all the brevets, conferred since 1821, been bestowed? The law of 1821 makes no provision for them either. And I ask him further, to tell me, under what law does the executive hold the power, now so liberally exercised, of altering the army regulations established by the act of 1816? The law of 1821 makes no provision whatever on that point. All authority over these, and many other subjects of importance, would, as I observed in my former remarks, "be utterly lost" if the doctrine of "Justitia Fiat," as applied to the case of staff officers, be sound.

But we are not without an authoritative decision, as to the bearing of the act of 1821, on prior legislation. Some years ago, an objection was, in fact, raised against the continuance of pensions, founded upon the silence of this act in relation to that subject; and the case having been submitted to Mr. Wirt, the attorney general, he gave the following opinion, to which I would invite the attention of your readers.

"OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE U. STATES,

November 17th, 1828.

SIR:—In answer to your inquiry of the 13th instant, I have the honor to state as my opinion, that the act of 2d March, 1821, to reduce and fix the military peace establishment of the United States, has not repealed, or changed, in any manner, the claim for pensions given by the analogous act of 1815, and the act to which it refers. There is no positive repeal of these pensions in the act of 1821: and a virtual and implicative repeal is only permitted where there is some inevitable repugnance between the last act and the former. None such exists in this case. If, therefore, the words of the 11th section of the act of 1821, were not broad enough to continue the claims to pensions, I should consider them as supported by the antecedent, unrepealed laws: being satisfied that Congress had no intention, by the act of 1821, to alter the existing military system farther than to reduce the establishment, and to make the *positive* changes which they have made by the act of 1821. I am of the opinion, therefore, that the 11th section of the act of 1821, must be liberally construed as recognizing all the objects more specially provided for by the 7th section of the act of 1815, and among these objects the claim to pensions.

(Signed) WM. WIRT.

The Hon. P. B. PORTER, War Department.

It will be seen from the foregoing opinion, that the attorney general adopted a rule of interpretation directly the reverse of that of "Justitia Fiat." The latter says, "the law of 1821 makes no provision for the adjutant general to retain his rank in the line

of the army, and the absence of such provision is tantamount to a positive law to the contrary." Mr. Wirt says, "there is no positive repeal of these pensions in the act of 1821: and a virtual and implicative repeal is only permitted, where there is some inevitable repugnance between the last act and the former:" and he adds, "if, therefore, the words of the 11th section of the act of 1821, were not broad enough to continue the claims to pensions, I should consider them as supported by the antecedent unrepealed laws."

It is worthy of remark, that the 11th section of the act of 1821, here relied upon by the attorney general, to sustain the rights of pensioners, makes no specific provision for them, while it does contain an express provision in regard to the rank of officers. If its words were broad enough to cover a case not specifically mentioned, they are surely broad enough to sustain one which is expressly provided for.

So much for the construction of the law, as expounded by "*Justitia Fiat*." A word now as to his *facts* in regard to the execution of that law.

He affirms in reference to his construction, that "*this* was the decision of the government, and it was *so* announced in orders by the President of the United States, upon the new organization of the army, according to the act of 2d March, 1821." I should have been much obliged to "*Justitia Fiat*," if he had presented his readers with a copy of the order announcing this important decision of the government. But that would have been no easy task.

The truth is, there never was any such order issued. The decision, it seems, is merely *inferred* from the arrangement of the army. How true it is, that one false step begets another. "*Justitia Fiat*" goes on to say, that "by reference to the Army Register, May 17th, 1821, it will be seen that all the staff officers deriving rank therefrom* vacated their place in the line of the army,"—and he gives the names of six of them, and repeats the declaration.

Now what is the true state of the facts in the case? If "*Justitia Fiat*" be at all acquainted with the history of the service, he must have known that five out of six of the staff officers named by him, as having vacated their appointments in the line, at the organization in 1821, did not, at that time, hold any appointments whatever in the line of the army. General Gibson had held no place in the line, since the reduction of the army in 1815, when he was disbanded as a colonel of infantry. Major Linnard had never, at any time, held a place in the line. Major Stanton had resigned his commission in the line in 1817, and was subsequently appointed to the staff from private life. And General Jesup had ceased to hold a place in the line in the year 1818. "*Justitia Fiat*" will, therefore, see, that his premises are not correct, and his inference, that these officers vacated their places in the line under the operation of the law of 1821, and for want of a special provision in their favor, is equally erroneous.

* I presume he means from their staff appointments.

As to the case of General Atkinson, on which much reliance has been placed, far from justifying the conclusion, that "the question, whether the same individual *could* be adjutant general and field officer of a regiment? was then *settled*," it admits of a ready explanation. It is not at all likely, under the circumstances of the time, that any such question was considered for a moment. It was rather a question whether the same individual *should* hold the two places? and was, therefore, one of expediency—not of law—for which there was ample authority imparted by the act of 1821 itself. By the 12th section of that act, the President was directed to cause the new establishment to be arranged and the surplus officers to be discharged from service.* General Atkinson was conditionally disbanded, in the first instance, as a colonel of infantry, and appointed adjutant general; but the staff appointment being unacceptable to him, he was finally permitted to resume his place in the line. That "the government" did not then consider it *illegal* for the adjutant general to have retained his rank in the line, is clearly evinced by the case of Colonel Archer, who was appointed inspector general, a few months after, by the same administration and under the same provisions of law, and continued to hold his place in the line to the day of his death. I protest then against the case of General Atkinson, which occurred under the special and peculiar circumstances mentioned, being regarded as settling a grave question of right, while the deliberate decisions of the government, in several other cases, in which the question was fairly and fully presented, are treated as "errors, oversights, or misapprehensions of the law."

"Justitia Fiat" is scarcely less erroneous in his quotations than in his facts. He imputes to me the opinion, that "lineal rank is necessary to make an officer eligible to the office of adjutant general."* There is no such sentiment in my remarks. The very reverse is affirmed. I took that ground only in reference to such staff officers as the laws, passed subsequently to 1816, required "to be taken from the line." As to the class, of which the adjutant general is one, and for whom the law does not so provide, I stated, distinctly, that there was an undoubted right to appoint them from *citizens*; but while this right was conceded, in the original selection, it was denied that, after a staff officer had been appointed from the line, there was any authority competent to destroy the rights secured to him by law, by compelling him to surrender his lineal rank. The distinction is a plain one. Under the provisions of the act of 1816, the existence of which has, I trust, been

* The writer seems to have been so entirely absorbed with the case of the *adjutant general*, that he could think of nothing else. His remarks, throughout, are aimed at that functionary. I dare say that worthy officer will ably vindicate his own cause. It has been my purpose to defend the rights of the staff in general. The case of the adjutant general was but incidentally introduced. He has, however, more at stake than any other officer of the staff. He holds a *brevet* as *colonel*, predicated on his lineal rank, of *older date* than his appointment in the staff, and which, though founded on his gallant services in the war, would be lost to him, if his lineal rank were surrendered.

sufficiently established, the retention of his lineal rank becomes, from the moment of his appointment, a vested right, of which he can no more be deprived than may any other officer of his lineal rank. They both hold by the same legal tenure, and may both lose by the same process—the exercise of the *dismissing* power.

“Justitia Fiat” professes to see a marked difference between officers who derive rank from their staff appointments and those who do not, and expresses his “astonishment” that I should say there is no difference in the legal aspect of their cases, as to the right of retaining their lineal rank. In support of his view, he resorts to many artificial distinctions which have no foundation in law. He speaks of “superior and inferior officers of the staff;” of “offices” and “appointments in aid of offices,” and he tells us, that while “the superior officers are appointed by the President and Senate, and are consequently as permanent as officers of the line of the army, the inferiors are appointed by generals, colonels, and heads of departments, and removeable at pleasure.” Now I utterly deny that there is any authority for these new-born distinctions; nor do I entirely agree to this partition of the appointing power; but if they were really well founded, I should not be able to perceive, how the *source* from which an appointment emanates, or the *tenure* by which it is held, could change the legal attributes of the office, and reverse the meaning of the same provision, in the organic law, applied indifferently to staff officers who do derive rank from their staff appointments and those who do not. According then, to “Justitia Fiat,” the words “to be taken from the line,” as applied to the former, mean that they shall *give up* their lineal rank, and, as applied to the latter, that they shall *retain* the lineal rank. Such is precisely the effect of his construction. Now whatever may be the notions of expediency which would suggest an alteration of the existing laws, I must, in turn, express my astonishment, that an interpretation so glaringly absurd and contradictory, should ever have been given to them as they now stand.

But it is affirmed that the appointment of inferior staff officers appertains to generals, colonels, or heads of departments, and the constitution is quoted as authority. “Justitia Fiat” is truly welcome to all the support he can derive from that source. The constitution does indeed provide, that “congress may, *by law*, vest the appointment of such inferior officers as they think proper in the President alone, in the courts of law, or in the heads of departments.” But where is the law which thus delegates the appointment of what are called “inferior staff officers?” It is not to be found in the act of 1821, and according to the modern doctrine, “the absence of such a provision is tantamount to a positive law to the contrary,” and generals are consequently stripped of authority to appoint their aids, and colonels their adjutants. ’Tis true, that some of the earlier laws did expressly confer this authority, and one even provided that regimental adjutants and quartermasters should retain their rank in the line; but remember, these ancient provisions are not repeated in the act of 1821, and ac-

according to "*Justitia Fiat*," they "weaken the argument" in favor of the right, "because they only call to recollection the fact, that when Congress have intended to confer such authority, it was deemed necessary, and had become the rule, to make provision to that effect."

Such is the labyrinth of error into which the argument of "*Justitia Fiat*" would lead him. It is the necessary consequence of setting out on false premises, and pursuing the "*argumentum ad hominem*," to which he resorts, instead of adhering to abstract principles.

MARCELLUS.

The writer on the subject of "the right of staff officers to retain their rank in the line," over the signature of "*Justitia Fiat*, &c.," seems to have fashioned his observations more with the view to express opinions in reference to a special case, and "but one object,"—than to expound the laws, or examine the usage and true history of the service, which have so important a bearing upon the text he professes to explain. He certainly has failed to sustain the averments, so laudably set forth in the premises; and since he has yielded to the honorable impulse, to essay the "correction and exposure" of "opinions erroneous and fallacious," I trust, I may be pardoned, in emulating so praiseworthy an example, especially, if I shall be able to establish the fallacy of *his* opinions, as well as great error, in the facts supposed, and precedents cited to support the writer's notions of the laws, and the usage of the service, on this subject, since the reduction of the army in 1821.

The remarks of "*Justitia Fiat*" are obviously aimed so pointedly at the particular case of the Adjutant General of the army, that I deem it necessary and proper to take special notice of some of the leading errors, which require to be corrected co-extensively with their diffusion: and in the performance of this duty, alike due to the service and the Adjutant General, I cannot more effectually accomplish it, than to publish in the *Military and Naval Magazine*, my letter to the Hon. LEWIS CASS, dated the 26th of February, 1834, in which I have fully, and I trust impartially, argued the whole question. Accordingly, I desire that this letter may follow these introductory remarks.

One of the instances of error which need some special notice, will be found in the assertion of "*Justitia Fiat*," that, as the law "to reduce the military peace establishment," approved March 2d, 1821, "makes no provision for the Adjutant General to retain his rank in the line of the army, the absence of such a provision is tantamount to a positive law to the contrary!" Indeed! under whose letters-patent, does the writer find that rule of construction, which, if true, would deny to the chief magistrate the exercise of some of the most important and salutary grants of power, relative to the army? Whence the authority to confer *brevets*, since the reduction of 1821; to grant *pensions*; to make *regulations*; to pre-

scribe the quantity and kind of clothing for the troops, &c? Certainly not from the law of 1821. Would "*Justitia Fiat*" affirm, that, because the act of '21 happens to be silent upon the subjects, "the *absence* of such provision is tantamount to a positive law to the contrary?" That is, that it has not been lawful to confer brevets, to grant pensions, &c., since 1821?

But the fallacy of such opinions is more fully developed elsewhere, as may be seen in the sequel. The legal authority which protects the rank, and secures the right of promotion, of the regimental officer, *after* he has been "taken from the line and transferred to the staff," is not to be sought in any organic law of the army. The authority is derived from a separate act of Congress, whose title is significantly expressive of the general purpose of the statute, viz: "An act for organizing the *general staff*, and making further *provisions* for the ARMY of the United States," approved April 24th, 1816. The ninth section of this act has never been repealed nor altered. Nor is the act of '21 repugnant to the provisions of the said ninth section, any more, than it has been considered to be incompatible with the former laws which authorize the President to confer brevets. The conservative rule, which guaranties to the line and staff officer the "privileges secured to the *staff* of the *army*" of the United States, is a general rule, indefinite in application, and therefore as applicable to the "staff" of the "military peace establishment of the United States," under the analogous act of 1821, to reduce the army, as theretofore it had been to the "staff" of the "military peace establishment," under the primary organic law of 1815, and the acts amendatory thereof; for, the phrase "staff of the army," found in the ninth section of the act of '16, is not restricted to any military peace establishment of the United States. As well might it be said, that the word "hereafter," used in the tenth section of this act, is so restricted, when that word confessedly refers to all future time, touching the particular subject to which it has reference.

The writer is misinformed, when he affirms that the government decided in 1821, against the legality of a lineal, and staff commission conferring rank, being held by the same officer at the same time; and that the decision "was so announced in orders by the President of the United States, upon the new organization of the army according to the act of the 2d March, 1821." If such a decision was ever made, and announced in orders in May '21, it was speedily reversed, in November following, as seen by the appointment of *Captain Samuel B. Archer*, to be inspector general, "with the rank of colonel;"* which staff commission was conferred and held "without prejudice to his rank in the line,"—the captain continuing legally to hold both, to the day of his lamented death, in

* *Extract from the Senate Roll.*

"8th May, 1822. "The Senate confirmed the following appointment in the army of the United States:

Brevet major Saml. B. Archer, captain 3d artillery, to be inspector general:"

1825, unmolested by the phantasies which, at that day of our service, had not begun to exert an influence over the imagination of modern theorists and prejudiced expounders of the military code.

In recounting the names of the seven staff officers, retained in 1821, "*Justitia Fiat*" says: "all of whom vacated their appointments in the line, except Col. Atkinson," &c., thereby leaving the uninitiated reader to infer that "all" had really held commissions in the line, at the period of the reduction of '21. Now what are the facts? Why, that *all* the retained staff officers, save one, had not held commissions in the line for some time, the greater number not for several years, prior to May '21; that one of the officers named (Col. Linnard) never had held a commission in the line; that another (Major Stanton) had resigned his commission of second lieutenant of light artillery in December, 1817; and that, when appointed in the staff in 1818, he was not an officer of the army.

I will close these prefatory remarks, already extended beyond the limit I had prescribed, with the exposure of one other error, no doubt innocently propagated, by the learned commentator; and which, if not corrected, is well calculated to prejudice the subject and greatly mislead the reader. The writer says:—"if the adjutant general can legally hold his majority in the line, he can draw the pay and emoluments of that office;" and in much kindness and liberality he informs the public, that "if *Colonel Jones* does not draw it now, [the pay, &c., of *major*, also,] his heirs will be entitled to it at some future day!" Can it be possible that "*Justitia Fiat*" really entertains the opinion he here ventures to express? Would he knowingly inculcate any false doctrine, or assume any hypotheses, in the hope the more certainly to consummate the great, the "*one object*," he frankly declares to have "in view?" namely—"to demolish the foundation of that position which supports the right of the adjutant general to retain his rank in the line of the army." I cannot consent to impute the influence of disingenuous motives, objectionable to good taste as the style of his argument in some respects may appear; and great as may be the "but one object in view." No: rather let me say, in the language of Holy Writ, and I hope I may be pardoned for the quotation,—"forgive them, they know not what they do." But let us turn to the records and see what the statutes provide in the case:—"And officers taken from "the *line*, and transferred to the *staff*, shall receive *only* the pay "and emoluments attached to the *RANK* in the *staff*."* This disclaimer of the law will, I imagine, be deemed to be conclusive, as it repudiates the fanciful notion of the writer concerning reversionary claims of "heirs," &c.; and the law quoted establishes another important fact, which seems to have escaped the keen pursuers of the "*one object*," the indisputable recognition of an abiding *rank* in the *line*, held by the same officer who may happen to hold "*rank* in the *staff*."

It is against this crusade "to demolish the foundation of that po-

* Act of April 24th, 1816; Cross' Military Laws, page 216, vide page 190.

sition which supports the *right* of the adjutant general," &c.,—a crusade waged, it would seem, against existing military laws as though they were obsolete, and "usage" immemorial; against the rights of the citizen and soldier, guaranteed by the statutes of the republic: It is in defence of these, involving also individual rights long possessed, that I, in the exercise of the high privileges of the former, have been thus constrained to exert my humble abilities. And if these just rights be successfully defended,—if they be sustained by the majesty of the laws, and confirmed by the sanctity and moral force of former decisions, as a case acknowledged to have been finally adjudicated, is there a brother officer, who would desire the annihilation of rights so possessed and justified? I think not. Even "*Justitia Fiat*," in eager chase of the prize—the "but one object in view"—must see, as he draws more near, that, through the mist of his horizon, he had mistaken in the distance the stripes and the stars for the cross of St. George: and, like some gallant Skimmer of the Seas, whose "one object" is conquest, will give up the chase, when he discovers the prize not lawful, but the rightful possession of a comrade.

R. JONES.

The length of the letter of Colonel Jones to the secretary of war, and the pre-engagement of our pages, forbid its insertion in the present number. We shall endeavor to make room for it in the next.—EDITOR.

ARTHUR TREMAINE.

"The varied scenes of life, this mirror shows."

After the bacchanal orgies into which I was seduced by a reckless and unprincipled man, and after the subsequent events which confirmed my repentant resolutions, I pursued the even tenor of my course of preparation for the military and academic requirements at West Point.

I emulated Snickings in devotion to vulgar fractions, and strove with equal ardor, but more success, in "the school of the soldier." The preliminary "balance steps," the "facings," and the "manual exercises," were all accomplished; and the drill bugle now no longer called me to the tiresome routine of a stationary drill, but to the more pleasant and dignified employment of marching over the plain, with shouldered arms; to the no small envy of those plebes who were not so forward in their exercises.

I was much flattered too, by the praise of Turkey-paw, who said, that I could "support, and p'sent, and secure arms, and charge bayonet with as much facility as the best of *my class*." My class! Think of this, ye who permit the aspirations of ambi-

tion to agitate the serenity of your minds! think, that I was reckoned, already, as one of a class of cadets. To be sure, it was the "plebe class;" but what of this? A plebe was all I aspired to be; for this made me "one of the corps."

The first class—the Specials—had now rubbed from their calendars nearly all the remaining days of the year; for *their* year terminated on the 20th June. There was but one "Soup day" remaining, and each embryo Lieutenant was fully authorized to adonise in a full suit of "cits," before whatever mirror he could find, best adapted from extent and capacity, to display his person arrayed in this new and unaccustomed costume. The pleasure these youthful citizens derived from this survey, from the criticisms of their fellows, from the envy of those whom they were about to leave behind, still cadets clad in sober gray, and especially, from the dreams of enjoyment which their "cits" suggested, and imagination shadowed forth, was so absorbing, that some of them used to forego a meal, (especially on *soup* day) in order to revel undisturbed amid visions of theatres, ladies, Willard's julaps, New York, and the delights of home.

The best connoisseur of fashions, and the most authentic judge of what was *comme il faut*, were the heroes of the day. Their opinion was demanded and freely given. Mapes, Wilton, Wheeler, Frost, passed in succession under the criticising scrutiny of these Aristarchuses, and were damned or applauded at their behests.

I was frequently invited into the rooms of some of the old cadets during these "inspections and parades," and I always observed that there was no collar pronounced perfect; no cut, authentic; and no fit, precise. Every coat, vest and pants, could be a *little* altered for the better; and some received unreserved and decided condemnation, though perhaps, in the extreme or exact mode. In vain did the cadet who chanced to be the subject of the critic's acumen, justify or excuse his favored tailor. In vain did he suggest that the fashions may have changed since the critic's last visit to New York. He was soon compelled, by the overwhelming force of opinion, to join the multitude, and proclaim "the infernal 'stitch-thimble,' a bungling botcher, who deserved to be scorched with a hot goose, scraped with stiff buckram, and pricked to death with his own needle."

Poor Wilton was teased to a degree, surpassed only by the extremity of torment, experienced by his worthy successor. Crowds of the expectant graduates with their curious friends, were seen, directly the bugle blew the end of "study hours," making a hasty way towards the tailor's shop. Patient did they stand, while a brother "Special" was being fitted—deep were their execrations, if their enquiries met only the reply "'tis not quite done, Sir;," or, "it is not basted yet."

With disappointed looks, and threatening aspect, they gave reluctant way to one, whose mouth is full of shrewd critiques of fundamental faults discovered in the lately-tried garment. Each receives a cheering word of consolation; and now a fault, but

lately glaring, seems transmuted, and a virtue. To him who utters forth in plaintive accents, with lugubrious countenance, a catalogue of errors in the cut, make, fit or fashion, the lovely portrait of a pictured "buck" arrayed in costume of the self-same mode, is straight displayed. The dismal wrinkles disappear, which curled the countenance; like mists from off the bosom of Lake George, which climb in winrows* up the mountain's steep, dissolve, and vanish into air before the morning sun, so, one by one, they pass away before the vision. The coat is yet in fashion—the fit, is surely to a T—the make, a master-piece—the cut, authentic, though perchance, it may peculiar be—and Wilton, the late reviled tailor, is notwithstanding, "a devilish fine fellow."

And now the crowd decreases, the tailor breathes, the 'prentice boy resumes his needle, and Longfield does the honors of his shop. "My boots, my boots"—"mit-out, my pumps"—"my Jeffersons, good Longfield, the Jeffersons you promised me"—"and my Monroes, are they yet done?"—resound from twenty voices. "Be patient, gentlemen, and you shall have your boots, *mit-out fail*. Your Jeffersons, mine friend, are not yet off the last; but come to-morrow, and you shall then receive them, *mit-out fail*. Your boots are *here* (as I did tell you yesterday,) *mit-out fail*. Them shoes, Cadet Adair, could not be made to-day; but come again next week, and you shall surely have them, *mit-out fail*. Your boots, you say, is here too small! It is a goot fault, for it fits the nicer. Vat's dat you say, Lieutenant Lake? dat Jefferson is yet too large! It is a goot fault, for it sets the easier! I make him too large on purpose. Ah, Mr. Armstrong, dat is wat I calls a *perfect* fit; it sets as nice as if 'twas made upon your foot; I made it so, on purpose." And thus mit-out had aye, a cheering comfort for the impatient "Special."

Anon, the assembly quit the ruby presence of the cobbling Longfield, who with everlasting strains of "mit-out-fail," kept the word of promise to the ear but broke it to the hope, and wend their way towards the sutler of the corps.

His shop with dry-goods, hard-ware, mouse-traps, neck-kerchiefs, is adorned. Whate'er, among the multitude of wants which appertain to graduation, that cannot be procured on instant call, the conscientious sutler kindly sends for, for a "*small consideration*." Not only so, but if with seamstresses, perchance, you lack acquaintance, the philanthropic man, with zeal and ardor, (far surpassing every-day benevolence,) straight offers his most opportune and willing agency, "for a small consideration."

With glistening eyes, and head reclining on his hand, he gazes from his window. He sees the peering forms of many an impatient graduate, rise in quick succession above the outline of the

*Professor Silliman has described in a most pictorial manner, the gradual disappearance of the morning mists. The visiter to Lake George would be well repaid, should he leave his pillow in the gray of the morning, to sail on the Lake till after the glorious sun-rise.

distant hill. He sees them stride with eager steps directly to his shop. Full well he knows that now an honest penny may be turned; that soon the quick enquiries of some new-created whim, for *their* adornment, or *that* essential requisite of dress, will sound in silvered tones on his obliging ear. With bright anticipation, Fancy fills his mind. He sees the *price* recorded on his books; he sees the "small consideration" of *commission*, super-added to the score; he views (with mental eye,) the *squaring of accounts*; and last, in brilliant perspicuity, he sees (oh, rapturous vision!) the Spanish Carolus, the golden Eagle, and the glorious countenance of United States' Bank bills, capping the fabric he has conjured from imagination. Like the gorgeous dome surmounting our nation's Capitol, which shines * resplendent in the noon-day sun, and sends his beams to greet the weary pilgrim, and the devotee of fashion, and gives them glad assurance that they are near the fountain of their desires: so swells in stately grandeur and golden radiance, the *total sum* under Tim's hands, reflecting back the sparkling hue imagination lends, and giving assurance to the sutler, that obliging kindness, benevolence, and philanthropy, meet a due reward in gold and silver; that "small considerations"—like vices newly entertained—though scarce of weight at first, perceptible, are, by frequent repetition, like vices oft indulged in—of serious gravity to the purse or conscience.

But from this varied reverie, the fitful dreamer starts, as sounds of hasty footsteps and rejoicing voices interrupt the course of thought.

The eye, late sparkling with the golden vision, reassumes the quietude of bland attention. The tongue finds utterance, and replies to eager questions, with promises of unremitted zeal to satisfy the needs and fancies of the urgent Specials; the officious hands draw forth some hidden treasure, display before the admiring crowd some "specially imported" gew-gaw; and fold, deliver, and record the purchase, adding a just "consideration."

But hark! the purchasers and their envying comrades, are aroused to consciousness of duty by the "parade" drum.

The absorbing novelty of the "cit's" equipment, which made desire of mingling with the world a mono-mania, and shed forgetfulness on memory, was now dethroned; the Lethe dew dispelled; and the "Special" stands arrayed in military costume in his wonted place. If, peradventure, the "merit roll" is published on parade, the interest and excitement of emulating strife regains ascendancy, and holds suspended, breath, heart, all the functions

* Arthur must have drawn, in this instance, upon his *imagination* for his *fact*. It is a pity to spoil so beautiful a simile; but the truth is, "the dome surmounting our nation's Capitol" is as dull and sombre looking an object as you will see in a day's ride. There is no more brilliancy in it, than there is in some of the speeches delivered under its shelter. We doubt whether Arthur has visited Washington of late years.—EDITOR.

of his nature, till the last result of academic labor or delinquency is made known. Oh! moment of mingled fear and hope! Oh! concentrated period of time, when every deed, of good and bad aspect, rises up to memory, and sublimates anxiety. Who that has endured the agony of this instant—for agony it is, of joy or sorrow—who will soon forget?

Such was the general interest after the occasion of publishing the merit roll, that I, plebe as I was, joined in the excitement, and reiterated the assertions of partiality, (ill-founded and ungenerous,) and offered sympathy or congratulation as occasion was deemed to justify the one or the other.

Were half the accusations true that were made of —, he might have been waisted to his punishment on the breath of the curses on his name. Ah! poor reward for honest zeal!

Ye, whose time and talents are devoted night and day, and month after month, in the thankless occupation of teaching those young ideas how to shoot; whose compensation is an execration, where a dollar should, in justice be; were ye not sustained by a noble fortitude, springing out of duty, the awful fear or recollection of dismal posts, how miserable would be your lot!

Condemned to toil, to mental labor doomed;
Unpaid, impoverished—by despair consumed!
The sub-professors, subs, and such small fry,
Their hope, their consolation, is—to die.

Orders were now given to commence the firing of ordnance at the Targets; and the evening was to be devoted to the display of fireworks, the pyrotechnical result of the "Specials'" manipulation. Each one was to throw his own rockets and fire balls, and, as a closing scene, some of the ingenious devices of the orderly of the Laboratory, old Cashman, were expected to be exhibited.

The beauty of the day, the astonishing success of the cadets and some of the Board of Visitors in the artillery exercises, rendered every one contented and conciliating. My father had the luck (he calls it skill,) to strike the Target, which was a hogshead anchored on the Hudson. He has not forgotten this feat, and when he wishes to speak of "efficiency," he says somewhat as follows: "He possesses, Sir, I do assure you, Sir, *efficiency* almost equal to what I once manifested on the occasion of my official visit to the United States' Military Academy;"—or if he seeks a comparison, one is always at his tongue's end. "For I can assure you, Sir, that his station is as *insecure* as that of a hogshead, which, 'on the occasion of my official visit to the United States' Military Academy,' I had the honor, Sir, to demolish with a cannon ball."

The darkness of the evening rendered the display of the fireworks very grand to my eyes. The band was held in requisition, and poured its soft music on the ear; while its melody was, ever and anon, interrupted by the discordant hissing of rockets, and the deep hollow sound of the discharge of fire-balls from the mor-

tars. And Echo awoke, and from her mountain home, breathed the strains causing them to linger awhile, ere they returned.

The corps, the visiters, and every living soul not on duty, seemed gathered around near the flag-staff in groups. The Specials were busied in making ready their works, and Cashman contrived to be omnipresent. These sounds of preparation, the confused murmur of the unseen multitude, the music, the gay laugh, all were at once hushed, as the signal rocket sought with ambitious brilliancy, the starry heavens. Immediately the parabolic curve of the bomb, fired from the water's edge near the Laboratory, might be traced in a line of fire, relieved by the black darkness of the northern clouds. Now it reaches the summit of its flight, and now it falls in majestic stateliness—bursts—and disappears. The fragments as they sink on the river, mingle their echoing contact with the sound of the exploded messenger, which seemed "the hollow moan of the disembodied spirit of nitre;"—such was Drummond's simile.

Darkness now yields to science. Rocket after rocket ascends, obliques, and rushes parallel to the earth. Some whirl round in eddies of fire; others trace a serpentine course; and all shed in the upper regions of the sky, a cloud of stars, which fall like a spangled mantle, to cover the plain. Fire-balls blaze at various points, and diffuse the light of burning salt, or nitre, in one livid hue, on the countenance of the spectators. Their ghastly appearances made them look like spectres; and one of vivid imagination might suppose them ministering to the Devil's carnival, or some jubilee of his imps.

My father, by whose side I was during this exhibition, was wonderfully complaisant, and was condescending enough to be highly gratified.

Chemistry, in none of her departments is endued with so specious a dignity as in that of pyrotechny; and on this evening, I am sure she lent effective aid to her mother science, in establishing her claims to equality with *literature* in my father's mind; for the lecture on this subject, which he promised me on a certain occasion, he did not think fit to impart.

On the succeeding day, I was examined and admitted to probation according to the tenor of my appointment. My father bade me adieu; the graduating class took a last glance, of their wonted haunts; shook with honest fervor the extended hands of comrades; and departed, alas! to what disappointment! what unreal enjoyment! Desolation, for a while brooded over the hearts of those who remained; and the silence of the succeeding evening spoke with chilling emphasis, of joys past, and of friends gone, never to return.

The muse of Drummond commemorated this sad era in strains more wild and fitful than was her wont.

Comrades! ye are before me! and the tide
 Of varied thoughts sweeps past me—like the rush
 Of a fresh loosened torrent. Side by side
 For many a month ye've ripened—and the flush,
 Caused by ambition's sun, hath not yet died
 Upon the cheeks it brightened—and the gush
 Of sympathetic feeling, is not dried
 Within the hearts it moistened—yet ye sever,
 As heart from heart, so hand from hand—forever!

"Forever!" and my lute sends forth a tone
 It's master reck's not of—that dreary strain!
 As all that music hath most sad, most lone,
 Were center'd in its strings—to breathe again
 At every random touch, in a deep moan;
 Like the low wind that sighs through midnight rain.
 And I'll unstring its chords, and hush its lay,
 And let its numbers sleep—perchance, for aye.

Farewell! * * * "Farewell"—as if a Spirit spoke
 That echo, answering, stole upon mine ear!
 Farewell! * * * "Farewell."—ha! there again it broke!
 Is it thy charnel voice, Oh! Death! I hear?
 Go, shroud thee in thy white sepulchral cloak,
 And lay thee down again upon thy bier!
 Once more, farewell! * * * hush! hark! and yet once more
Another voice than mine hath breathed it o'er.

Before my eyes there is a rising mist!
 A secret hand is pressing on my brow!
 I breathed the wonted parting words—and hist!
 Who? *what* hath answered me? how solve it? how
 Interpretate the hidden meaning? list!
 That voice was echoed, which I heard but now,
 From Death's dark waves, that roll on Agis' shore;
 A token, that we part—to meet no more.

No! not as autumn birds forsake their nest,
 But to return when summer decks the plain;
 Not as the sun that slumbers in the west,
 To wake to-morrow in the east again;
 Not as the tones of harps by winds carest,
 Which, lost awhile, swell up in sweeter strain:
 But like a spirit to its home of wo,
 That goes, to rest forever—thus ye go!

And like a reed upon the rushing stream,
 That floateth on to meet the eye no more;
 And like an image of a broken dream,
 Which sleep oft woo'd, may ne'er again restore;
 And like a falling star, when quench'd its gleam:
 And like a comet, when its blaze is o'er:
 Thus will ye soon exist in mem'ry's view.
 Adieu—adieu, forever—yet—adieu!

But the elasticity of youth, which renders any impression, however sad or joyous, of ephemeral existence, soon restored to the remaining cadets the perception only of the present. Their hearts, like water, were susceptible to every impulse, but, like water, they regained their equilibrium so soon as the cause of their emotion was removed.

The "furlough men," or those who had passed through two encampments, remained for a few days after the departure of the graduates' class. I have before mentioned that I was treated by the old cadets with distinguished consideration, which I, in foolish vanity, attributed to every motive but the right one. It was not myself whom they adulated, but my *clothes*. It was not my acquaintance they coveted, but my "*cit's dress*."

My coat had peculiar beauties in the eyes of those about my size, (there were but few of them;) and my hat had inherent charms to those whose heads it would fit. My father was scarcely gone when my furlough friends did me the honor to call on me.

Jack Durrell considered my shape in wonderful proportion, and eminently adapted to a cadet's coat which he begged me to try on.

"The coat does, indeed," he said, "become you, and sets off your form to admiration." I was proud enough of the "uniform," and easily convinced of its becoming grace. He was kind enough to propose an exchange; to which proposal, it would, surely, have been uncourteous not to accede.

Sandy Boggs, who had a remarkably acute eye for the consistent, thought my vest and hat exceedingly out of keeping with my coat, and deemed a military stand-up-collar, and a shako much more appropriate. I was of the same opinion. My 'unmentionables' became 'indispensables' to Dick Longfellow, and even my boots received the honor of adorning Glum Decker's limbs. I had, of my original wardrobe, only my shirts left. Some of these, indeed, were imploringly requested by those unfortunate caitiffs, whose *queues des chemises* were "too short," from hard wear or from that rapid extension of body which military exercise produces.

A portion of my garments revisited the home of their creation; another travelled to the sunny climes of the south, and my boots trod the expansive prairies of the west. I, in the mean time, was arrayed in a heterogeneous costume, and strutted, like the Jackdaw in the fable, full of self-satisfaction.

And now the sound of preparation greets the ear. The Quarter-master has marched out the encampment, and tents and tent-poles in confusion lay about the barrack door. The bed and bedding, (save one blanket, or several *sewed up* into one,) and all superfluous articles prohibited in camp by regulation, are placed in custody. Great Mars looks down in godlike complaisance on the youthful soldiers, and their emulation. Soon every thing was ready, and the now diminished corps, in column marched, to sound of martial music, to make their sojourn on the tented plain. The motley mass of plebes followed in the rear, like stragglers on an army's skirts.

The relaxation from hard, mental strife, to strife in mimic war, relieves the tired mind, and renders each one active and enthusiastic in his new employment. The tents rise up like magic, dotting with snow-white canvass the neighborhood of Fort Clinton.

I was soon arranged in my new abode. On the first night I could scarcely sleep; so new and singular was every thing to me.

Every movement in the camp was echoed with distinctness. I was continually awakened by the "hailing" of the sentinels. There was something soul-stirring in the thought, that I was lying on the earth with but a thin covering from the dews of heaven, like those famed warriors of whose renown the world has rung. I would not have exchanged my oil-cloth, that fortified me from the damps of the ground, for the softest bed. While I lay awake, fancy lighted up enthusiasm, and I thought that all the fame of science was naught to military glory. I rose from my hard couch, and peeped from the closed folds of the tent. The stars twinkled from the clear blue heavens, the mountains were half wrapped in gloom, and Fort Putnam, dimly seen peering in solemn majesty above the plain, seemed like a veteran sentinel over the young and sleeping soldiers.

Now and then the splash of the sturgeon upon the waters as he fell back from his sportive gambols, echoed from the Hudson; and the constant and regular tread of the sentry, broke upon the stillness of the hour. One dim, solitary light, glimmered from the guard-tents, from whence the subdued murmurs of the officers who kept vigils there, stole on the ear. These faint sounds only rendered the silence of nature more sublimely impressive. I could have remained longer, much longer, at the door of my tent, but was admonished by the chill night-breeze, and my scanty dress to return to my resting place. In a few minutes I was fast asleep, and—I remember—strange but pleasing dreams crowded on my heated fancy. From this slumber I was awakened by the *réveille*, which sounded fearfully loud, and I started up, pulled on my coat, and was on the parade ground. Only a few plebes had yet appeared, but a confused noise of yawning, and irritable exclamations, sounded on every side, as the old cadets, to whom camp was no novelty, were being aroused by the unwelcome interruption of their sleep.

I thought of these lines, which Drummond had made a few days before :

'Tis a fine thing sweet slumber to take,
If when one awakes, he's *wide* awake."

It did not require a long time to regulate matters in camp, and our drills re-commenced with greater frequency. There was in my class, great emulation who should be first ready for guard. This ardent desire was fanned by some of our seniors, who represented the ambition of "marching on guard" as surpassingly honorable.

Drummond, with whom I had become quite intimate, said to me one day—"Now, Naso, when I was a plebe, I thought, and I still think, Naso, that the guard duty is the most responsible, the most dignified, and I shall not be far out of the way if I add, the most inspiring of military duties. Think, Naso, how important you will feel when you make your tour, that you are the guardian of the corps. The hailing, too, Naso, "stand! who goes there?"

think of the power you have of stopping Haughty or Hitch, and the pleasure you would enjoy in running through Tush with your bayonet? think of *that*, Naso!"

"But, Dad," said I, "I shall soon be obliged to go on guard, and then all the pleasures you speak of may be realized."

"Yes, but d—n it, Naso! why wait till you are detailed? Where is the honor, if you are *obliged* to go? When I was a plebe, Naso, I burned to commence my *active* duties—then, and then only, is one a full cadet. Why mope here in listless idleness, when you might serve your country by going on guard. For shame! Naso."

"Nay, but Dad," interrupted I, "you know that I want to go on guard, and that I want to be the *first* on from my class; but how can I? I have no belts—no accoutrements—no cap—how can I?"

"Let not that trouble you, Naso; I will take care that you are provided. *I will lend you mine.* I thought that you were not so ignoble as to be unambitious to commence your guard duties. I have too high an opinion of your *patriotism*, Naso, and your *poetry of feeling*, to suppose such a thing. Of your patriotism; because, as I said before, Naso, you cannot serve your country more efficiently than by going on guard. The day after to-morrow is the 4th of July, when your appointment takes effect; a day that you may commemorate by entering on your first tour of duty, in my stead! Yes! Naso, I will forego that delight for your sake. Of your poetry of feeling, Naso; because, the silence of night lends vigor to imagination. You see the moon beams swim on the waters, and you forthwith liken them to gladness. They fade—their light grows dim—and Fancy calls them love—for

What is love but the changing moon,
T'enjoy while we may; for it wanes as soon!

Then again, Naso, at the midnight hour, when the busy hum of day is hushed, and man has sunk to rest, when the last echo of the evening drum, has died long since upon yon mountain's crest—no sound is heard, save when the wind may come in fitful murmurs from the Hudson's breast, blending its whispers with the mountain breeze, that sighs faintly through the forest trees—at such an hour—"

"But stop, Dad," interrupted I again, astonished and delighted at his growing enthusiasm and sparkling, intelligent eye. "Stop I say, for you have been talking to me in poetry. I will bet that if you can recollect what you have just now said, I will put it to rhyme."

"Rhyme? why shall the glorious thoughts which a midnight contemplation of the stars, and the illimitable heavens create, be fettered in their embodying with *rhyme*? Why, Arthur, should the inspiration of a tour of guard duty between the setting and the rising of the sun, be dampened by the chilling formulas of language? When the soul speaks, she speaks in poetry. A curse

on the "wise saws and modern instances" of school men, who, not comprehending the divinity of poetry, arrogantly assume to be *her* dictator! who prescribe the measure and mode of *her* expression! If, Naso, when in the delectable enjoyment of this warlike pleasure—if, when you view, in your customary walk on post, the boundless empyrean—if you are like me, and I think you are, Tremaine, you will, as Cæsar says he did in the midst of the camp, note the heavens, and the revolutions of the stars, and that infinite galaxy which defies conception.

— media inter prælia sem. er—
Sideribus, cœlique plagis, superisque vacavi.

You will see the moon, too, shining amid the stars, in all its glory; you may watch its sailing at the lover's noon, far, far, above the earth's bleak tempests. Ah! Arthur! no response given by nature, stronger speaks than this, to prove beyond this sphere, there's one of bliss."

As the poet said this, his voice sunk to a low murmur. His better nature, that Maurice spoke to me of in the garden, beamed forth. It seemed to burst through the darkness of sensuality as that pale orb, which so swelled his bosom with mysterious emotions, breaks through the black clouds that conceal its radiance.

I could not refuse so kind an offer to avail myself of the privilege of "marching on guard" in Drummond's stead; especially as he evidently denied himself the enjoyment of those delights he so eloquently described, entirely out of regard and friendship for me. To be sure, it so happened, that the different classes were to celebrate Independence by some social conviviality, which it was usual on that day to tolerate; but then, it cannot for a moment be supposed, that Drummond thought of *this*, when he was making his generous sacrifice.

On going to the post office on the next day after my interview with Dad, I met him with a note which a gentleman had given him for me. It was from my father, desiring me to call on an officer of the institution for a small package he had left behind with him. He took especial care to tell me it was very important, containing, he said, "the incipient elements of the report of the Board of Visitors, which he had had the honor to draught in part, 'on the occasion of his late official visit to the United States' Military Academy.'" In obedience to this injunction, I called on the possessor of this invaluable inception. I was ushered into his house by a young ragamuffin that was afterwards dignified by the title of "man-servant," who said that "his maister was in the garden a-picking currants."

I seated myself, holding my father's note in my hand, and waited for his coming. In a few minutes I heard sounds of voices and footsteps.

"Heow's that, Sampson? heow's that you say?" in a deliberate, provincial accent, asked one, who seemed to be the individual I wished to see.

"There's a cadet, Sar," replied my usher, Sampson, "what wants to see ye in the housen."

"Who is he, Sampson? heow; is he large or not large? and does he look fierce, or does he not look fierce?"

"He's be not large," replied Sampson, "I calc'late he's kinder fierce and kinder not fierce. I don't believe he's wrathy, Sar: not half so wrathy as that ere cadet what came here t'other day, Ise calc'late."

With this assurance, the gentleman seemed to be satisfied, and entered the room where I was waiting.

He was not a tall man, or else stooped in the shoulders so much as not to appear so. He was dressed in a black coat, quite rusty, and defiled on the collar. His breeches might have been once blue, but now could hardly be denominated by any known homogeneous hue. Streaks and spots of white and dirty gray, diversified their complexion; like what we see in a home-made rag carpet which some Dutch house-wife displays on the floor of her best room, on extraordinary occasions. His hair was black, in higglety pigglety knots, which seemed to have a most affectionate disposition to tangle themselves in one another's embraces—causing one unwittingly to wonder, whether any comb, even of the most lusty horn, had ever the vigorous hardihood to attempt their disunion. He shuffled towards me, giving me a searching glance, as if to see whether my call was in enmity or good faith.

"Heow d'ye do, Sir;" said the gentleman,—“my man-servant told me as heow you wished to see me.” He then rested his finger nails on his teeth, and paused for my reply.

My business was soon made known, and after reading my father's note, during which time I had more leisure to observe him, he looked at me with a relieved aspect, and said:

"Why, Cadet Tremaine, your uniform so much alters your looks, that I should not have recognized you as the same person who passed so good an examination. I hope you feound the camp pleasant."

"Quite so, Sir," I answered, "I like to sleep on the ground."

"Heow?" drawled my host.

"I like, Sir, I say," explained I, "to be in camp; there is something very new in that life to me."

"I am glad you like it," replied he, "for some of the new cadets are apt to think it hard; heowever, you may make yourself very comfortable. Your father's package shall be sent immediately to him."

Having accomplished my commission, I was shuffled *out* of the house, and returned to camp.

OUR HOME IS ON THE SEA.

Adapted to a simple air, from the opera of the Maid of Judah.†

ALLEGRO.

Our home is on the sea, boy, Our home is on the
sea,* When nature gave the ocean wave, She mark'd it
for the free. What ev - er storms be - fall, boy, What
ev - er storms be - fall, The isl - and bark is
free - dom's ark, And floats her safe through all.

[* Repeat the first two lines, and end at the star.]

II.

Behold yon sea of isles, boy,
Behold yon sea of isles;
Where every shore
Is sparkling o'er
With beauty's richest smiles.
For us hath Freedom claim'd boy,
For us hath Freedom claim'd,
Those ocean nests,
Where valor rests
His eagle wing untam'd.

III.

And shall the Moslem dare, boy,
And shall the Moslem dare,
While Grecian hand
Can wield a brand,
To plant his crescent there?
No—by our fathers, no, boy,
No, by the cross we show—
From Maina's rills
To Thracia's hills,
All Greece re-echoes "No!"

† Having only heard the air once, at the theatre, and not being any great connoisseur in musical matters, the notation may not be such as would please the fastidious eye of criticism—but it is sufficiently clear to be understood, and Milton says in *Paradise lost*—"that is enough." N.

From the London New Monthly Magazine.

OCEAN DIRGE.

BY MRS. HEMANS.

Sleep! we give thee to the wave,
Red with life-blood of the brave;
Thou shalt find a noble grave,
Fare thee well!

Sleep! thy billowy field is won!
Proudly may the funeral gun,
'Midst the hush, at set of sun,
Boom thy knell.

Lonely, lonely is thy bed!
Never there may tear be shed,
Marble rear'd, or brother's head
Bow'd to weep.

Yet thy record on the sea,
Borne through battle high and free,
Long the starred * flag shall be,
Sleep, Oh! sleep!

* "Red-Cross" in the original.

From the Philadelphia Commercial Intelligencer, April 5, 1834.

THE PRIDE OF WORTH.

There is a joy in worth,
A calm, mysterious, soul-pervading charm;
Which, never daunted, ever bright and warm,
Mocks at the passing, shadowy ills of earth,
Amid the gloom is bright, and placid in the storm.

It asks, it needs, no aid;
It makes the proud and lofty soul its throne;
There, in its self-created heaven, alone,
No fear to shake, no memory to upbraid,
It sits a lesser God. *Life, life is all its own.*

The stoic was not wrong!
'There is no evil to the virtuous brave,
Or in the battle's rift, or on the wave;
Worshipp'd, or scorn'd; alone, or in the throng;
He is himself alone—nor life's nor fortune's slave!

R. T. C.

FROM THE UNITED SERVICE JOURNAL, FEBRUARY, 1834.

On the present state of the Science of the Tides.

By the Rev. W. Whewell, fellow and tutor of Trinity College, Cambridge.

The state of our information concerning the tides is at present exciting considerable attention among English mathematicians; and it will probably not be long before we shall be able to announce some decided additions to our knowledge on this subject. A sketch of the present situation of this remarkable branch of science may, therefore, interest the readers of the United Service Journal, the more so, as many of them, especially naval men, may have it in their power to promote our progress by their labors or their influence.

The popular opinion on this subject is, that the true theory of the tides was discovered by Sir Isaac Newton; that he showed this curious though familiar phenomenon to be a result of the attraction exerted by the moon upon the waters of the ocean and upon the earth itself; and that in this way the course of the tides, like the motions of all the bodies of the solar system, was shown to result from one great and pervading law—the universal mutual attraction of matter. And so far the popular opinion is right; but there is a difference to be noticed with regard to what Newton and the Newtonian philosophy have done in reference to this subject, and to the other consequences of the law of universal gravitation. With regard to the motions of the earth, the moon, and the planets, these motions are not only accounted for, but all the circumstances and quantities of the motions are fully explained—so fully explained that they can be exactly calculated beforehand; and predictions of the future places of all the heavenly bodies can be delivered for any future period, however distant, which predictions are always verified with an accuracy truly remarkable. The power of calculation and prediction which we thus obtain is that which sets the seal of certainty and reality upon the theory, and makes it impossible for any intelligent and unprejudiced person who examines it, not to be entirely convinced of its truth.

Now, with respect to the tides, the case is hitherto very different from this. The tides are *explained* by the theory of gravitation; that is, it can be shown that a motion of the sea of that kind, governed mainly by the moon, would take place. But neither Newton, nor the Newtonians, nor any modern philosophers, have yet explained the amount and course of the tides, at any one place; nor can they calculate beforehand the time at which the tide will take place, and the height to which it will rise, with any pretensions to accuracy. A person, therefore, who should deny the doctrine of universal gravitation, so far as its application to the explanation of the tides, could not be convinced or refuted, as he might be in other cases, by showing the exact accordance of the results of calculations founded on the theory, with measurements obtain-

ed by observation. If we take a record of the times and heights of high water for a long period, we are not in a condition to show that they are what they ought to be, the theory being true; whereas, with regard to the astronomical phenomena which flow from gravitation, we can show this in the most complete and satisfactory manner.

It will probably occur to many of our readers that the effect of accidental circumstances upon the time of high water,—for instance of wind and weather,—and of the form of the shore, when the tide has to enter harbors and rivers,—will account for a great difference between theory and observation, and indeed would lead us to expect such a difference. But difficulties of this kind may be got over almost entirely. If we observe the tides for a long period, the effect of the wind, upon the average, is very slight, or altogether disappears; and the obstacles and modifying causes which arise from the shore and bottom are the same every day; and therefore would not make the *course* of the tides irregular, though they may make the time and height different from what they would have been without such obstructions. These circumstances, therefore, do not relieve the theorist from the *onus* of showing that the course of the phenomena is in accordance with his assertions. The *mean* result of observation *ought* to agree with the calculated result of theory.

This responsibility, the Newtonian, if he is a fair and philosophical person, will not attempt to evade; but he will not be able to deny that the obligation has not yet been discharged: the agreement in *detail* of tide observations with the consequences of the moon's attraction, has never yet been shown. The present object, therefore, of the cultivators of this subject ought to be, to bring into view this agreement, that is, if there be an agreement; or, if not, to bring into view the disagreement of fact and theory, and to leave the theory to take the consequences in the best way it can. This, accordingly, is what some persons at present are endeavoring to do; and the collection of long series of exact tide observations, made at many various places, is one essential part of this undertaking, to which the readers of this Journal are invited to contribute.

But, in order to make this comparison, we must not only collect many and good observations, but we must also be able to trace the consequences of the theory, under the actual circumstances of the land and sea on the earth's surface; and this is by no means an easy matter. It is, indeed, so far from easy, that it does not appear possible to do it with great exactness at present: for, the form of the shores of the ocean is so complex and varied, that no calculation can apply to it; and the *depth* of the sea, which is an important element in the question, is absolutely unknown. And, even if we knew all these *data*, the mathematical calculation of the motions of fluids has not yet become so perfect and powerful a system, as to enable us to say what would be the result of the moon's attraction, combined with the earth's motion, on such a

body of water; so that our comparison is hitherto defective, at both ends: we want to compare calculation and observation, and we have not a sufficient command over either to do so.

We are not, however, yet liberated from our responsibility, as philosophers, of bringing theory and fact together. For though we cannot trace *exactly* the results of the theory, we can obtain a general notion of what nature they will be; and we ought to be able to say whether they are of this nature or not. For the purpose of illustrating this, I will point out one view of the tides in which this comparison would be extremely interesting, and might be made without much difficulty, by a combination of efforts of different persons; I speak of the manner in which the tide is distributed over the surface of the ocean, and the manner in which it moves from one position to another. For this purpose I must refer to the theory, but in a way not too abstruse for general comprehension.

The moon attracts every part of the earth, and those parts the most which are the nearest to her. Thus, the water under the moon, and the centre of the earth, are both attracted by her, but the water is more attracted than the centre, and therefore has a tendency to go away from the centre; which, if the centre and the water were equally attracted, it would not have. The water will, therefore, rise under the moon and form a protuberance: its convexity will rise higher than it would do if the moon did not attract it.

As the water under the moon is nearer the moon than the centre is, and consequently is more attracted, so the water on the opposite side of the earth is further off, and less attracted than the centre; and therefore is left, as it were, by the centre, which it would not be if the water and the centre were equally attracted. There will, therefore, be a protuberance of the water on the side of the earth which is turned from the moon, of just the same kind as that which is under the moon. The magnitude of these protuberances will depend upon the mass of the moon and its distance; the nearer the attracting body is to the earth, the greater is the *difference* of its attractive power on the centre and the near or opposite side of the earth. These protuberances would be under the moon and directly opposite to her, if the earth were at rest, and if the whole surface were water. Neither of these things is so, and we must consider what difference will arise from an alteration of these conditions.

The earth revolves on its axis and carries the water with it; and the effect of this will be, that the protuberance will no longer be under the moon; it will *lag behind* the moon, if we suppose the moon to revolve round the earth. But if we suppose the ocean to be regularly diffused over the globe, this lagging will be always the same. If a small island exist in such an ocean, the two protuberances, and the lower water between them, will all pass the island in one day, and thus make two high and two low waters at the island; and these high waters will follow the passage of the moon at an interval of time depending on what I have called the *lagging* of the protuberance which forms the high water, and these protu-

berances would reach from one pole of the earth to the other, and thus bring high water at the same time to all places on the protuberant line. If we suppose, for the sake of simplicity, that the moon is always in the equator, the tide might be considered as a long wave reaching from pole to pole, and moving round the earth, following the moon steadily and perpetually, and always at the same angular interval.

But it is very clear, that when we suppose the surface of the ocean to be interrupted by great continents, like those of the Old and the New World, this sort of motion of the waters cannot go on. If we suppose such a tide-wave as I have spoken of to travel across the Pacific, when it reaches the shores of Asia and Australia it must be utterly broken and dispersed among the large islands of that part of the globe, and its progress westward as one wave altogether interrupted. The Atlantic will not receive its tides by such a wave coming into it from the east: and those tides, and the tides of the whole of this part of the world, must take place in some other way.

Now in what way will the tides, considered on this large scale, take place on the earth, occupied as it really is with land and sea? We may form some notion of the result, by observing the way in which the long swell of the sea travels into a small creek. The large wave extends across the creek, and the part which fills the opening breaks off and travels separately up the creek. In the same manner we may still imagine a tide-wave moving round the earth from the east to the west, in the Southern Ocean (for there is there a complete circuit of water;) and we may conceive that this wave turns northward and then travels into the Indian seas, and that another part of it moves northward up the Atlantic, and after running the profile of its swell along the coast of Africa on one side, and of America on the other, brings the tides to our own shores.

The tide in the Atlantic will not, it may be said, depend entirely on the tide in the Southern Ocean, as we have supposed: for the moon would produce a tide in the Atlantic, even if there were no Southern Ocean. This is quite true; but the way in which the tide moves from one place to another will still be in the nature of the motion of a wave, as it was seen to be in the above explanation.

From this being understood and conceded, a very curious and important undertaking is, *to trace the motion of this wave along the various coasts of the ocean, by actually observing at what time, on a given day or days, it is at each place*; that is, in short, by observing the moment of high water at such places. This is what I have above referred to as a possible and interesting way of comparing the observation of the tides with theoretical views; and this is what I have tried and am now trying to induce several persons to assist in doing.

The line which the ridge of the tide-wave occupies at any moment, I have called a *cotidal line*, intending by that term to suggest its nature, namely, that it is the line drawn through all places having high water at the same instant. This line occupies a dif-

ferent position every hour, and a series of cotidal lines drawn on the surface of the globe for each hour of a given day (the day of new or full moon for instance) would exhibit the motion of the wave, just as in a plan of a battle, the successive places of the same battalion marked on the plan show the movements of the body during the engagement.

Some of the information which is required to enable us to cover the whole surface of the ocean with cotidal lines has been brought together already; and though it is a mere scrap of that which we might wish, and but a small fraction of that which we hope before long to attain, it has led already to some curious conclusions. We will take two or three by way of specimen.

It appears, for instance, that the wave, the ridge of which is marked by the cotidal lines, does enter into the Atlantic from the south, and throws itself across that ocean, so as to extend from Brazil to the Gold Coast of Africa, bringing the tide to both at nearly the same time. This tide-wave then travels northwards, is much interrupted and disturbed about the Madeira and Cape Verd Islands, and, after washing the shores of Spain, Portugal, and France, reaches the British Isles.

The general, or, as we may say, *natural* direction in which the tide-wave travels is from east to west, following the apparent daily motion of the moon. But in consequence of the position of the shores of Africa and America, the direction of this wave changes so, that its progress is *north*, as we have already seen. When it reaches the chops of the Channel, the tide wave separates, one branch turns again and takes its way *eastward* up the Channel, thus moving opposite to its original direction. This is the branch which brings the tides to all points of the south coast of England as far as Dover, and, as it would seem, through the Straits of Dover to the North Foreland.

Another branch of the same tide travels along the west coast of Ireland and Scotland, and does not bend eastward till it reaches the Shetlands. But when it has thus turned the north point of Scotland, it only turns to the east, but it afterwards turns to the south, and then travelling downwards, brings the tide to the whole of the east coast of England, as far as the mouth of the Thames. On reaching this opening, the tide again turns *westward*, and thus comes to London, after going through an entire circle in the way of change of direction.

The general direction of the motion of the tide-wave being from east to west, we might expect that, of all places in the world the most likely one for this direction to prevail in, would be the sea to the southward of Cape Horn, where there is an uninterrupted girdle of water round the earth. Yet it appears to be quite certain, from the observations of Captain King, (see his *Sailing Directions*,) that the tide is later and later as we take points more and more easterly on the south coast of Tierra del Fuego; that is the tide-wave in this part moves from west to east. It may easily turn out that this apparent anomaly prevails only near the shore,

and that further out at sea the tide-wave moves in its *proper* direction; but the curious fact just mentioned shows how much caution, and how extended a collection of observations, are requisite, in order that we may draw our cotidal lines with any degree of accuracy.

There is one general rule which appears to hold respecting the positions of the cotidal lines, so far as they have yet been drawn. As we go out of the wide ocean into the narrower seas, these lines are more and more crowded; that is, the motion of the tide-wave is more and more slow. Thus in the Atlantic the velocity of the tide-wave is 600 or 700 miles an hour; in the Indian seas, it is probably not a quarter of this. On the south coast of England, the tide which is at the Lizard at half-past four, is at Dover at fifty minutes past ten. This gives six hours and a quarter, nearly, for the tide to travel from the Lizard to Dover, a distance of about 300 miles; or a velocity of fifty miles an hour. *Ceteris paribus*, the velocity is least in shallow water and contracted channels.

The reader may probably be startled at the mention of such a velocity as 700 miles an hour, or twelve miles in a minute. But he must recollect that this is not the velocity of the *water*, but of the *waves*:—not the rate at which the *substance*, but that at which the *form* is transferred. An undulation may run rapidly along, while the undulating substance does not run on at all; as may be seen in the waves which run along a field of corn on a gusty day, or the undulation along a stretched chain or rope. The *water* which makes the tide at Dover is not *that water* which made the tide at the Land's End six hours before, though the *elevation of the water* has been in that time transferred in a regular manner past every intermediate point of the coast. The rate at which the wave travels is no more identical with the rate at which the water moves, than the rate at which intelligence is conveyed by a line of telegraphs is identical with the rate at which the arms of the telegraphs move.

I may hereafter return to this subject; for the present I fear I may have wearied my readers.

W. W.

BREVET PROMOTION OF LIEUTENANTS.

Each day is rife with some new plan for the partial or general re-organization of our naval branch. To trace the causes which throw into motion this strong impulse of the various parts of the whole body, would be to recapitulate those of the vast and powerful progress of every portion of our young and thriving republic. The limbs naturally feel the same influence that developes and strengthens the body, and whatever checks the navy may expe-

rience, they are but the temporary restraints imposed by policy and circumstances, which must, in time, yield to the real interests and demands of a nation whose defence is based upon the fundamental principles of a naval force, by the genius of its free institutions and happily also upon necessity, arising from an extended line of sea-board and an immense and flourishing commerce; nor less upon convenience, from our efficient and ready means of equipping and manning large fleets. But without referring to the peculiar sources of this onward action, there is another to be found in the first principles of our nature, displaying itself in every age, class and profession—the restless, ever-living hope of the future, cherished and sustained by some present realization, which is the main spring of life, pleasure and usefulness:—without it what are we? the mere slaves of time and circumstance, drones in the great hive of existence. This is one of the fountains from which now flows the current we see and feel in rapid motion; and to a military body it is the very vital flush that, once checked, must destroy its efficiency; with it will go the substance, and though the form remain, the first blast of war will scatter it like the talisman of truth, dissipating some magic enchantment. And who will be surprised that almost every thought and sentiment emanating from the officers of the navy breathes but of complaint; that their productions, their correspondence, public and private, even their conversation teems eternally with the same topic, when on all sides the common incentives to enterprize and ambition are denied; and even the means of subsistence doled with such a sparing hand as scarce to afford comfort, much less respectability. And if the subject has been worn thread-bare, and patience wearied by its frequent repetition, to whose credit shall it be placed? To that of the immediate sufferers? It is not asked or expected that every visionary scheme is to meet with immediate compliance, as the remedy would then be more to be feared than the disease. But if attention be given to the point where they all tend, and some effort, however slight, made to remove the cause of common evil, confidence at least would not be withheld from the intentions and skill of the directing power.

These remarks have been elicited by a plan lately proposed, which seems more practicable, and perhaps more appropriate than any other suggested to meet the end in view—it is to increase the list of commanders to 100, by adding 20 commissions and 40 brevets. Some strenuous efforts are contemplated by many favorable to it, who are also very sanguine of success. But whether successful or not to the extent wished for, the principle promises to answer well, and there is every reason to believe that it will be adopted, though hardly to the limits above mentioned. For one, I should not think it advisable to be carried so far; it is evident that after this addition has been made, unless the government are determined to keep up a suitable increase, the evil will return with redoubled force, as the promotions from lieutenants will be even slower than they have been; and if it does, the grade of comman-

ders will be swelled beyond all proportion or propriety. It cannot be, however, that their number can ever exceed 100, and the mere supplying of vacancies never will suffice to maintain a healthy and gradual promotion. I should therefore propose to distribute the increase through the next five years, on the assumption that from present appearances it will hardly be necessary to augment the force afloat during that time: Thus

	<i>Commissions.</i>	<i>Brevets.</i>
Present session,	4	12
1835	4	11
36	4	10
37	4	9
38	4	8
39	"	6
	<hr/> 20	<hr/> 56

As the first twelve brevets are exclusive of the first commissions, the whole plan will require sixty lieutenants. This with the vacancies in the two upper grades, and the settlement of the first at the old number forty, will probably average fourteen promotions yearly from the lieutenants' list.

But however we may differ about the details either in the mode or time of affording relief, no reasonable person can doubt that something of the kind is absolutely necessary, and it is earnestly recommended that the affair be carried, without delay, before the President, who has always evinced too much of the high feelings of his former profession to refuse what he will consider, even-handed justice.

BLUE JACKET.

The support hitherto given to the Magazine has not been sufficient to meet promptly even the expenses of printing; it has, consequently, deprived the editor of the means to employ any kind of assistant whatever, and much labor has thereby devolved upon him, absorbing time which should have been devoted to the editorial department. Nothing short of a *most determined* resolution to carry the work through at all hazards, could have sustained him in the task he has so far accomplished, if not to general satisfaction, as least as well as the materials at his disposal would permit.

In the earlier stages of the publication, when communications were furnished slowly, and the Magazine might be viewed as an experiment not fairly tested, no fixed plan for the arrangement of the articles could have been conveniently pursued.

It was originally intended to divide the articles into heads.

1st. Original essays, Selections, &c.

2d. Analytical or critical notices.

3d. General correspondence, embracing subjects of minor importance.

4th. Correspondence from posts, stations and squadrons.

5th. Military, naval and general intelligence.

This plan has never for a moment been lost sight of, but only delayed for a more propitious time. Many articles, which should have been placed among general or other correspondence, have of necessity sometimes been put in the foreground, as leading or conspicuous articles. The increased expense of printing in small instead of large type, was also an important consideration—the difference being fully one-half.

With patience and forbearance on the part of readers; and a little more time to obtain that support which is essential to the permanence of the Magazine, and is yet wanting, we shall be able to carry our original design into effect. We commence now by introducing the head of "*general correspondence*," and hope soon to add another for "*correspondence from posts, stations and squadrons*," for which we have made some preparatory arrangements. The "*analytical and critical notices*" will depend in a great measure upon the number of new works issued from the press. Original contributions may now be counted upon with some degree of confidence; and a spirit of emulation and pride to sustain the Magazine will, we trust, be aroused and maintained.

It has been our wish, never to obtrude our own affairs upon the notice of the reader, but to leave the Magazine to speak for itself. We have been compelled, in one or two instances, to deviate from this course, to explain circumstances not known at a distance, to dispel error, or remove ill-grounded prejudice. What we have now said, seems to have been called for, by way of explanation, and should any thing further be required, either verbally or in writing, it shall be promptly afforded.

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MILITARY AND NAVAL MAGAZINE.

PROVIDENT SOCIETY.

At a meeting of the officers of the army, composed of those of the seventh U. S. infantry, and of the medical staff, on duty at Fort Gibson; convened for the purpose of taking into consideration a plan for the organization of a Provident Society, which has been the subject of several articles that have appeared in the United States Military and Naval Magazine, the objects of which are, through authority to be derived from Congress, to raise funds to provide annuities for the widows and children of deceased officers of the army; to put on half pay, such officers as may choose to resign after the expiration of a prescribed period of service, as well as to secure the same to those who may be disbanded: It was, in order that their silence might not be construed into an implied acquiescence in the measures therein proposed for adoption by the army,

Resolved, That we are not disposed to build up an institution based on such principles, or endowed with such powers; and that we will oppose any legislation on this subject, that does not leave unimpaired our individual rights.

Resolved, That we will emphatically refuse to submit to any enactments affecting our private relations, or pecuniary interests, unless they are made in

the spirit of our free institutions, and emanate spontaneously, from the representatives of the people.

Resolved, That we deem it not only ungenerous, but unjust, to ask one set of men, who may from choice, or otherwise, deny themselves the endearments to be looked for in domestic life, to contribute to a fund destined for the support of the families of those, whose negligence in the exercise of that provident foresight which it is the duty of all holding the relation of husband and father to practise, might compel their dependents to submit to the humiliating necessity of becoming the stewards of a forced and envied charity.

Resolved, That in the opinion of this meeting, the fulfilment of the desires of those who have originated, and now advocate this plan, would essentially act as a bounty upon matrimony; and would moreover embarrass the service by rendering the army immoveable; which they think has already sufficiently the characteristics of a community in transitu.

Resolved, That we believe this system contains within itself so little of the principle or power of self-repair, that we can predict for it an early death from atrophy; and that if it were not unjust and unequal in its operation, it would be, for this reason, inexpedient to put it in motion.

Resolved, That we cheerfully accord to our fellows the privilege of regulating their own charities, and that we will, as we attach some value to it, reserve to ourselves the right to bestow ours, when, where and upon whom we choose.

Resolved, That these resolutions, after they shall have been signed by all present, be forwarded to the editor of the U. S. Military and Naval Magazine for publication.

March 3d, 1834, Fort Gibson.

1. M. ARBUCKLE, Colonel 7th Infantry,
2. E. S. HAWKINS, Captain 7th Infantry,
3. J. L. DAWSON, Captain 7th Infantry,
4. T. H. JOHNSTON, 1st Lieutenant 7th Infantry,
5. D. S. MILES, Lieutenant, Adjutant 7th Infantry,
6. WASH'N. SEAWELL, 1st Lieutenant 7th Infantry,
7. L. F. CARTER, Lieutenant 7th Infantry,
8. S. W. MOORE, 2d Lieutenant Dragoons.
9. T. H. HOLMES, 2d Lieutenant Dragoons.
10. J. WEST, 2d Lieutenant 7th Infantry,
11. SAM'L. KINNEY, 2d Lieutenant 7th Infantry,
12. R. H. ROSS, 2d Lieutenant 7th Infantry,
13. R. C. GATLIN, Brevet 2d Lieutenant 7th Infantry,
14. Z. PITCHER, Surgeon U. S. Army,
15. JOS. J. B. WRIGHT, Assistant Surgeon U. S. Army,
16. HENRY HOLT, Assistant Surgeon U. S. Army.

Signed by *every* officer on duty with the 7th Infantry, but Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Burbank, who is as much opposed to the principle on which the Provident Society is proposed to be founded, as any of the signers, but withholds his signature, only because he deems any action in opposition *unnecessary*: his confidence in the wisdom and justice of Congress, convincing him, that the endeavor to procure the passage of a bill in favor of the society, *must and will fail*.

February 16, 1834.

MR. EDITOR:—Your correspondent B. K. in the January number, (5) of 1834, of the Military Magazine has done *well* to put the question, "*how* the Secretary of War became acquainted with the opinions of the army, in *favor* of a Provident Society?"

It is certain that the declaration of the Secretary was made without sufficient authority; as the officers of the army *generally*, have not in your Magazine, or in any other channel, expressed any opinion on the subject. His belief was probably induced by the officers stationed at Washington, as in 1828, they endeavored to overcome the "small fry" into compliance with their opinions; but I rejoice for the independence of the army, that they failed. It is to be lament-

ed, that the opinions of these officers govern the army: for removed as they have been for many years, from intercourse with, and the command of troops; and unacquainted with the wants and opinions of the army; it is but the "blind leading the blind:" but "regulations," tactics, and uniforms, and all within their control, and the consequence is, that they all want amending.

The officers of the 2d artillery, and 2d infantry, with four officers of the 4th artillery, appear to be the only supporters of the measure, while no expression of opinion has been publicly made by the officers of the 1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th regiments of infantry; and the 1st, 3rd, and a majority of the 4th regiment of artillery, have also been silent.*

I can speak advisedly, as to the opinions of the officers serving with the 7th infantry, and the measure has in that regiment, few, or no advocates; yet, as they have held no meetings against the measure, its friends have probably assumed that they are in its favor. The idea of compelling, by Congressional enactment, the unmarried officers to join the society, is so unjust and offensive to the feelings of a nice delicacy, that I cannot suppress the expression of my astonishment, that a body of *gentlemen* should wish their families supported by compulsory contributions from others.

Married officers, to the exclusion, and inconvenience frequently, of those unmarried, occupy more quarters than "regulations" allow them; their convenience is frequently considered in the details for detached duties, and transfers made to accommodate them; and not content with these advantages, some of them appear desirous to compel us to devote a portion of our straitened incomes to the support of children whom they father.

I have always held the opinion, and have often heard it expressed by many, that an officer's usefulness, readiness and celerity in obeying details, and efficiency, are in a measure destroyed by marriage: and should government enforce this scheme, a bounty on marriages may be considered as offered; when, if the efficiency of the army be desired, they ought to be discouraged.

Let me repeat, in the words of B K, that, "many officers have mothers and sisters dependent on them for support; and are *in consequence*, unmarried. Is the pittance which such men reserve to themselves, to be squeezed from them, for the benefit of those who choose to marry, and bring up children, without the means of supporting them? Are these, the most noble, the most disinterested objects of charity, to be *neglected*, by the transfer, the *enforced* transfer, of the hard earned savings of a son, or a brother, to some reckless and improvident disciple of Malthus?" Forbid it justice, delicacy, and *true* charity!

AN UNMARRIED OFFICER.

* As the foregoing communication was written at a long distance from the seat of government, the writer of it could not, as will be apparent from the date, have seen the February and March numbers of the Magazine, which show that portions of the officers of the 3rd and 5th infantry, stationed at Forts Howard, Towson, and Winnebago, have expressed themselves in favor of a Provident Society. There is, perhaps, not an officer in the army, opposed to a *voluntary* association, which is the only kind we have advocated, or ever contemplated; and there are probably not more than a dozen, if there are so many, who would approve of a compulsory deduction from their pay for the establishment of a forced and reluctant charity.—EDITOR.

The April number of the Military and Naval Magazine contains, amongst other articles, an essay on the subject of the recently proposed Provident Society—by a writer, signing himself *Calebs*, &c.

My object is not to enter into a discussion with the writer in question, as to the *expediency* or *practicability* of the project:—for, on both these points I agree with him. It is inexpedient, because unjust:—it is impracticable, the means

proposed being altogether insufficient for the end. The argument to prove that a law for such purpose would be *unconstitutional* is, I think, nonsense. Congress have an undoubted right to reduce the pay of any or all grades of officers, and apply the sum accruing from such reduction, to any purpose not in itself unconstitutional.

But this is departing from the object of this paper: I write to express my sincere regret that any officer should have deemed it proper or decorous to discuss the subject in language like that selected by your correspondent, *Cælebs*. That he is a *young* gentleman, I apprehend; and I therefore trust he will receive as intended, a few remarks from one, I doubt not, by some years, his senior in years and experience.

It is manifest, that with the advantage of being in the right, he has chosen, in place of showing this by fair reasoning, to resort to *ridicule*—a weapon, at all times dangerous in argument, and as I think, peculiarly ill-chosen at the present time, and in discussing the present subject. Without applying the old adage—"flippancy is often mistaken by its author for wit,"—I must say that your correspondent *Cælebs* is jesting on points, on which a gentleman should *never* suffer himself to speak lightly; trifling on the subject of ties, of which he shows himself unqualified to judge, and which he knows not how to appreciate; and he is indelicately making remarks, which cannot fail to wound the feelings of many, at least as worthy, and probably as *independent*, as himself.

What shall be said of the refinement—the *chivalry* of a *young officer*, who selects, as objects of his ridicule, individuals of that sex, which every man is bound to protect—the wives, nay, the widows and orphans of his brother officers? The *wit*, which invades the sanctuary, respected by men of refinement and honor, is well associated with the *magnanimity* which reminds with a taunt, of "the surrender of a portion of the bachelor's equal rights to the better halves of their *Benedick* brethren."

If sentiments and views, Mr. Editor, like those of your correspondent *Cælebs*, be generally entertained by the unmarried gentlemen of the army, which I never can believe, it surely does not manifest much of the *esprit du corps*, or of "the energies" (to quote his own words,) "which should be devoted to honor and to glory," to publish them to the world. If *spoken of*, among ourselves, they should at least go no further.

On his melancholy forebodings, as set forth in the paragraph, commencing "severe must be the trial, &c.," it is hardly necessary to comment. If his service, as I imagine, has been but *short*, I can assure him, that a little experience will convince him, that no class of our officers are more diligent in the discharge of their duty in time of peace; or more prompt and efficient in actual service, than those who have the high additional incitement to gain and preserve a reputation—that it is to be shared by those valued "dearer than life." If any of them have been forced by the emergencies incident to the profession, to receive for their families, little acts of courtesy or kindness from their "bachelor brothers," they will, doubtless, lament that among those conferring the obligations was an individual who could again *even speak* of the kindness thus done. They, doubtless, in their turn when "bachelors" have done as much, without the subsequent taunt.

Of the correctness of my criticism, and of the impropriety of the remarks of *Cælebs*, I offer one test. His remarks are general, and apply to every married officer and his family. I ask—would that writer *ever* in conversation hold similar language to any of his high-minded brethren of the army—the married officers, (unless under the existence of some peculiar circumstance to authorize such undue liberty) and what reply save *one*, ought to follow such remarks?

Thus much for the argument in general. To the coarseness and bad taste manifested in the language of this author, nearly every paragraph of his essay will bear witness. Take, for instance, the paragraph commencing "The number of married officers, &c." "There is no need of any such premium, &c." "Let me not be misapprehended, &c." "In the above remarks, &c." "But I have, over and above, &c." "The constitution specifies, &c." "Similar criticisms, &c.;" and so on, to the end of the chapter. Arguments and remarks like those contained in those paragraphs, as well as the facetious designa-

tions "help-mate," "better halves," "*corps* of widows and orphans," "*lying-in hospital for officers' wives*," &c. &c., may find some small excuse at a mess of bachelors, over a bottle of Champagne; but certainly never, if made to a married officer,—and still less if offered to the world, in a public print.

And yet the bad taste (to call it by the mildest name) is aggravated by the circumstance that his remarks are all *stale*. During a service of a quarter of a century, from its commencement to the present day, I have heard the same ideas held forth; and the same ribald jests *cracked*, by a few officers of a *certain class*, and in a *certain way*; but I must confess, that I never expected to see them in print in a work like the *Military and Naval Magazine*. To your periodical, Mr. Editor, I am a sincere well-wisher, and emphatically, in that character I say, I sincerely hope communications of similar character may be excluded your pages in future. A writer in your January number, (over the signature B. K.) first set the example of the very objectionable description of language, here adverted to.

In closing—let me assure Cœlebs, (for I know him not, otherwise,) that, tho' my language may seem harsh, it is not intended to give offence. He may be, and probably is an honorable and (in one sense) a gallant officer, but he has certainly acted unadvisedly in offering his essay for publication. He manifests talent in his writing; and I truly hope, that hereafter it may be better applied.

SEXTUS.

SIR:—Carelessly turning over the leaves of the April number of the *Magazine*, I saw a suspicious title: "Cœlebs, (but not in search of a wife.)" Curious to know whether any discoveries had been recently made against our mothers, wives, or daughters, I read the paper. His title should have been, "unworthy of a wife;" and from the hairy hearted sentiments of an acknowledged officer, the appellation might have embraced his commission too, and no great harm done. The 95th and 96th pages declare an avaricious soldier and a grossly sensual man. Such a one could only be a wilful bachelor, and to *this* bachelor belongs moral obliquity, or physical disability. Our sympathies are engaged for the last, and we exclaim, "God help him," as a matter wholly beyond human aid; but for the former, the passions are mustered, and, after struggling for expressions, the possessor is cursed as a non-natural in the *bas* channel of humanity.

Had this Pseudo warrior been contented to copy the calculations of the West Point Academicians, every one interested, would have perceived the impracticability of conforming to the amiable views of a number of officers, to create a permanent widow's fund from their pay, and the object of Cœlebs to avert any call upon his unwilling purse fully answered; but when he parades a mean spirit and a spiritless wit, in the vain glorious boast of a contemner of women, a saver, too, of tooth-pick money, (the contemplated assessment was little else) he challenged the decent feelings of society, and proclaimed his defiance of them.

What inference can be drawn from a plain expression of dissent to advance a few shillings annually, to diffuse joy and hope into the sinking hearts of the bereaved wives and suffering children of brother soldiers, but this? *That depraved nature craves unhallowed indulgencies and the "unconstitutional tax," draws a trifle from that source which was to supply a few more hours' indulgence to corruption!* What would the soft endearments of a woman's love be to such profligacy? As much as would be the out-pourings of a living fountain of water upon the parched sands of the desert, or as wasteful as the sprinkling of the ottar of roses upon the miry bristles of a pig. The soldier's joy, the warrior's pride, blessing the otherwise tasteless life of waste man, can shed no glory upon a vicious heart. Should she who is "last at the cross and first at the grave," radiating with beauty and sweetness, as a rose just bursting upon the first blush of the morning, cast that sweetness and that beauty upon the niggard, who, to save a tithe of the widow's mite, would suffer the agonies inflicted at the cross to bear her to an early grave? Forbid it manhood, forbid it virtuous love; and yet the scorner of the tears of affection in distress, prates of the "chase of

glory," of "honor, high honor, the life of the soldier's spirit," as if these principles were familiar with him.

What most powerfully prompted the heroes of the olden times, to deeds of martial glory? When mighty kings assembled their burnished warriors to poise the lance or thrust the spear, what were the inducements, what the reward? The garlands of love, distributed by the hands of smiling beauty.

"Mark yonder maid of beauty well;
'Tis she for whose bright eyes was won
The listed field at Askalon."

The debased spirit which calls "matrimonial felicity" a "scrape;" which announces the "fruits" of such felicity, "beggars," fit for an *ogre's* feast; which, in the extremity of vulgarity, unfeelingly speaks of "lying-in hospitals for officers' wives," would have held the stirrup of the knight of the lowest fame, for a moiety of a hangman's dues.

The mysteries of mythology, offering splendid fables, drawn from the truest instincts of nature, *the witcheries of the heart*; the chronicles of antiquity, and the records of settled history, portraying the glorious achievements of chivalry, urged by the inspirations of love, would enrich the pages of the Military and Naval Magazine; and by contrast, destroy the efforts of voluptuaries to offend maternal delicacy, or insult the dignity of a gallant army.

April 20, 1834.

GARRISON.

It is a delicate matter to decide how far a writer may be permitted to go, without transcending the bounds of decorum. So diversified are men's judgments and tastes, that what some cordially approve, others as strongly condemn. This has been the case with reference to the very article here so pointedly condemned. With a disposition to allow to all as much latitude as a reasonable man may claim, we must say that a writer's own ideas of propriety ought to be his guide; and if these are not sufficient to restrain him from the expression of improper sentiments, he must not complain, should the pruning knife of criticism be occasionally applied to his lucubrations.

While we would, on the one hand, carefully exclude every thing offensive to true delicacy, we have, on the other hand, a desire to avoid the appearance of fastidiousness. We would no more be instrumental in excluding the fairer portion of creation from a perusal of the Magazine, than we would in denying them a participation of the quarters allotted to their, and their country's, defenders.

So long as the Magazine continues to embody the thoughts, views and opinions, of the officers at large, so long will it present a changing aspect and reflect a varied hue. Where a few persons only prepare the material for any work, a uniformity and general resemblance may be easily preserved; and herein does the Magazine essentially differ from other periodicals; it was not established to advance or to support any particular theory, doctrines or measures, but rather as a field open to all, which all were invited to enter, under an assurance that it was free and independent; excluding, however, party politics, and subject only to such general rules as govern the principles and conduct of gentlemen.

If our correspondents, *SEXTUS* and *GARRISON*, will refer to the United Service Journal, for the months of November and December, 1833, and January and February, 1834, they will there find the question of the "Married interest" in barracks, discussed, if not as broadly, at least as unreservedly as *CÆLEBS* has handled. —EDITOR.

KEY WEST.

SIR:—In the March number of your Magazine, you have admitted a communication over the signature of "T. P." purporting to be an "*account relating*" to the history of Key West, which is calculated to mislead your "military readers." The writer has not well gathered his materials, for a travelling journalist, as his statements show; and if he be a *military resident*, he is most certainly an indifferent observer, and has not taken a very judicious step towards *relieving himself* from all the "*potent hardships*," which have combined "to destroy his comfort."

The Government has not expended "*forty thousand dollars*" upon the post at Key West; and it is possible, that if *twenty times* that sum had been expended, the "*conveniences would not betoken*," in the estimation of T. P., a better proportion, than what he has already assigned.

The "*large frame building erected*" (and he, might have added, upon a brick and stone basement, of 7 feet height) was built according to instructions from the proper Department, and "*should it ever reach a period of completion*," will be as comfortable as any barracks in the United States; and "*it is extremely probable, that the first storm which may range among*" those "*desolate isles*," will leave it *upright*, notwithstanding it is so "*fast going to rottenness and decay*," although its *style* of "*architecture*," may not be understood or appreciated by every body from "*down east*." The observatory which T. P.'s fruitful imagination likens unto "*a sanctified looking steeple*," should lead him to pleasant reflections, from association, if he could not perceive its utility in a military point of view, for purposes of reconnoissance:—"Besides this unfinished edifice, there are" *seven* (instead of "*three or four*") other "*buildings*," in which "*officers and men*," have been quartered for twelve months, without being "*devoured by cock-roaches, sand-flies, mosquitoes and chigoes*," having the all sufficient "*protection of mosquito bars*" and a good police.

During a residence of two years and three months at Key West, we have not experienced the necessity of retiring "*to rest with the going down of the sun*;" on the contrary, the troops did not "*ensconce themselves under the protection of mosquito bars*," until 9 o'clock P. M., for the reason, that the men required more time for *recreation*, than the regulations permitted,—to obtain which, tattoo was deferred for thirty minutes, during that part of the year which requires that it should be beaten at half past 8 o'clock;—nor were we subjected to "*annoyance*" from "*sand-flies and chigoes*," to the extent implied by your correspondent, at Key West, but at other places at the south, we have found them, as well as a *variety of other insects*, somewhat troublesome: and lastly, it has been within the knowledge of the undersigned, that the troops on one occasion, at least, were useful in extending "*protection*" to the inhabitants of the island; and we did not "*suppose*" that any "*uninterested person*," could think "*the troops themselves*" had "*a right to demand protection from them*;" we thought them better soldiers, than to so seem.

Respectfully yours,

J. M. GLASSELL, Major U. S. A.

F. D. NEWCOMB, Lt. A. Q. M. U. S. A.

P. S.—Please request such papers as have noticed T. P.'s production, to give this a passing glance, and oblige the writer.

J. M. G.

F. D. N.

PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS,

In Relation to the Army and Navy.

IN THE SENATE.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 22.—Mr. WILKINS presented a memorial of sundry surviving officers of the late war, praying that lands may be granted to such officers as served to the end of the war, and to the heirs of those who have since died; which was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

FRIDAY, JAN. 24.—On motion of Mr. SPRAGUE, it was

Resolved, That the Committee on Military Affairs be instructed to inquire into the expediency of erecting fortifications for the defence of Penobscot Bay and River, in Maine, or of causing surveys with a view to that object.

The bills from the House, making certain allowances, &c. to officers of the Marine Corps—and extending certain pensions payable out of the Privateer Pension Fund—were read twice and referred.

FRIDAY, JAN. 31.—The CHAIR communicated a report from the Secretary of the Navy, made in compliance with the act of 1st May, 1830, containing a statement of the appropriations made for the Naval service for the last year, the sums expended, with balances remaining on hand.

THURSDAY, FEB. 6.—Mr. CHAMBERS presented the following, which was considered and adopted the next day.

Resolved, That the Committee on Naval Affairs be instructed to inquire into the expediency of providing for a Naval School.

The CHAIR communicated a report from the Secretary of War, transmitting abstracts of the returns of the Militia of the United States, for the last year, together with an account of the arms, accoutrements and ammunition on hand; which, on motion of Mr. WEBSTER, was ordered to be printed.

Mr. SOUTHARD, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, to which the subject had been referred, reported a bill for the better organization of the Marine Corps; which was read, and ordered to a second reading.

Mr. CLAY presented a petition, signed by the officers stationed at West Point, on the subject of a bill before Congress, to provide for the widows and orphans of such officers as may die in the service; and, on motion of Mr. CLAY, it was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs, and ordered to be printed.

MONDAY, FEB. 10.—Mr. CHAMBERS submitted the following—

Resolved, That the Committee on Military Affairs be instructed to inquire into the expediency of making an appropriation for the fortifications of the first and second class, as projected by the Board of Engineers, for the defence of the city of Baltimore.

Mr. WILKINS presented the petition of a number of citizens of Pennsylvania, praying for donations of land to the officers of the late war; which was referred to the Committee on Claims.

FRIDAY, FEB. 14.—Mr. SOUTHARD, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, reported a bill relative to the Privateer Pension Fund.

The CHAIR communicated a report from the Secretary of War, transmitting a statement of the contracts entered into by the War Department for the year 1833.

TUESDAY, FEB. 25.—Mr. CLAYTON presented a memorial praying that grants of public lands may be made to such officers, or the heirs of such, as served to the close of the last war; which was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 26.—Mr. WHITE presented the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Committee on Military Affairs be instructed to inquire into the expediency of providing by law for the appointment of a Chaplain to be attached to the battalion of Mounted Rangers, raised for the defence of the frontiers. This resolution was taken up on Friday, the 28th and agreed to.

MONDAY, MARCH 3.—Mr. MANGUM presented a remonstrance from the officers of the Army, at Fort Johnston, N. C. against the passage of a bill before Congress.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19.—Mr. PRESTON, from the Committee on Military Affairs, to which the same had been referred, reported a bill to increase and regulate the pay of surgeons and assistant surgeons in the Army of the U. S. without amendment.

On motion of Mr. WEBSTER, the bill from the House of Representatives, making appropriations for the support of the Army of the United States, for 1834, was taken up and twice read by unanimous consent, and referred to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. KING, from the Committee on Military Affairs, to which the subject had been referred, reported a bill making appropriations for the repairs of the Military road to Mars Hill, in Maine; which was read and ordered to a second reading.

THURSDAY, MARCH 20.—The CHAIR communicated a report from the War Department, transmitting copies of the Army Register, for 1834.

SATURDAY, MARCH 29.—Mr. SOUTHARD, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, to which had been referred the bill from the House, making certain allowances to the captains and subalterns of the Marine Corps, reported the same without amendment.

Mr. PRESTON presented the memorial of the City authorities of the City of Charleston, S. C. praying for the establishment of a Naval hospital; which was referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs.

Mr. HENDRICKS presented the petition of the officers of the Army stationed at Fort Dearborn, remonstrating against the passage of a bill before Congress for the creation of a provident fund, to be deducted from their pay; which was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

MONDAY, APRIL 7.—Mr. MORRIS presented a resolution of the Legislature of Ohio, disapproving of the Military Academy, which was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30.—On motion of Mr. WEBSTER, who stated that since the bill making appropriations for the Military service had been reported, some information had been received from the Department, which rendered it necessary that some amendments should be made, the bill was recommitted to the Committee on Finance.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 22.—The following engrossed bills were read a third time, passed and sent to the Senate for concurrence:

An act making certain allowances, and granting certain arrearages, to the Captains and subalterns of the corps of Marines, and

An act further to extend the term of certain pensions, chargeable on the Privateer Pension Fund.

MONDAY, JAN. 27.—Mr. BINNEY from the Committee of Ways and Means, reported a bill making appropriations for the Military Academy, for 1834.

Mr. POLK, from the same Committee, reported a bill making provisions for the support of the army, for 1834. Both bills were read twice and committed.

On motion of Mr. WHITE, of Florida, it was

Resolved, That the Committee on Naval Affairs be instructed to inquire into the expediency of deepening the bar of Pensacola Bay, according to the report of the Engineers of the United States, and that of the Secretary of the Navy.

Mr. C. P. WHITE, of New York, presented a memorial of merchants, shipmasters, and others, of the port of New York, praying that a school ship may be established at the port of New York, for the purpose of educating young men for the merchant and Naval service.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 29.—Mr. HAWES submitted the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the Committee on Military Affairs be instructed to inquire into the expediency of erecting a public Armory on the waters of Green river, in the State of Kentucky.

Resolved, That the Committee on Military Affairs be directed to inquire into the expediency of abolishing the Military Institution at West Point, in the State of New York.

A division of the question on the resolution being required by Mr. WARD, the question was taken on the first, and agreed to without opposition. The question then recurring on the second,

Mr. BROWN, of New York, moved to lay it on the table.

On this motion Mr. Bouldin demanded the Yeas and Nays. They were taken accordingly, and resulted as follows:—Yeas, 85 Nays, 102.

So the House refused to lay the resolution on the table. Mr. LYTLE offered as an amendment, a resolution proposing in substance, that no candidate be hereafter admitted into the school unless he proved under oath that his parents were too poor to afford to educate him. This amendment, being in nature of a substitute, was declared by the CHAIR not to be in order. Mr. HUBBARD moved to amend the resolution by substituting for the Committee on Military Affairs, a Select Committee, to consist of one member from each State of the Union. Mr. SPEIGHT supported the resolution, not so much from opposition to the Military Academy, as hoping that it might lead to an inquiry into the truth of the allegation of abuses, which were said to exist in the Institution.

Mr. BROWN offered the following as an amendment to the amendment:

Strike out all that follows after the word inquire, and insert as follows:

“What new enactments or legislative provisions (if any) are necessary for the improvement or better government of the Military Academy at West Point.”

The CHAIR pronounced it not to be in order, pending the motion of Mr. HUBBARD. Mr. MILLER, of Pennsylvania, moved to postpone the entire subject until Tuesday next, but the motion was negatived. Mr. HAWES accepted Mr. HUBBARD's amendment as a modification of his motion. Mr. MANN obtained the floor, when, the hour having expired, the subject was postponed until to-morrow.

FRIDAY, JAN. 31.—On motion of Mr. ALLEN, of Ohio, it was

Resolved, That the Committee on Military Affairs be instructed to inquire into the expediency of establishing a National Armory on the Western waters, to include those in the State of Ohio.

The SPEAKER laid before the House a letter from the Secretary of the Navy, transmitting a statement of appropriations, expenditures, and balances, for the Naval Service, for 1833.

THURSDAY, FEB. 6.—On motion of Mr. SEABORN JONES, it was

Resolved, That the Committee on Naval Affairs be instructed to inquire into the expediency and propriety of substituting lead for iron, as the material for balls for the use of cannon on board our vessels of war, and batteries on land.

The SPEAKER laid before the House a letter from the Secretary of War, transmitting abstracts of the general return of the Militia, for 1833. Referred to the Select Committee, to which was referred the resolutions of the Legislature New of Hampshire

FRIDAY, FEB. 7.—Mr. C. P. WHITE submitted the following:

Resolved, That the Clerk cause to be printed, for the use of this House, one thousand additional copies of the Rules and Regulations for the government of the Navy, as communicated to Congress by the President, on the 23d Dec. 1833. Said resolution was taken up on, and agreed to, the next day.

SATURDAY, FEB. 8.—Mr. EWING, of Indiana, offered the following:

Resolved, That the Committee on Military Affairs, in considering the resolutions already referred, upon the subject of a National Armory on the western waters, be instructed to embrace the Wabash and White rivers, in the State of Indiana.

After debate, in which efforts were made to embrace other sections, the resolution was laid on the table.

On motion of Mr. LYON, of Michigan, it was

Resolved, That the Committee on Military Affairs be instructed to inquire into the expediency of making an appropriation to pay any unsatisfied claims for

Militia services in the Territory of Michigan, growing out of the Indian disturbances in that Territory, in the year 1832.

MONDAY, FEB. 10.—Mr. HAWES submitted the following:

Resolved, That the Secretary of War be directed to communicate to this House the names and number of all the Cadets who have been received into the United States' Military Academy in each year, from the 31st December, 1829, till the present time; the States and Territories, including the District of Columbia, from which they came, respectively; distinguishing between those who have graduated and have received commissions, and those who have withdrawn, or have been dismissed from the Institution; stating, also, the names and number of those graduates now in the Army of the United States, and designating (as far as practicable) those whose fathers or guardians were, or now are members of Congress, or other officers of the General Government, or Governors of States or Territories, or holding offices in the District of Columbia.

Mr. R. M. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported a bill to provide for the defence of the Arkansas frontier; read twice and committed.

The bill to render permanent the present mode of supplying the Army of the United States, and fixing the salaries of the clerks in the Office of the Com. Gen. of Subsistence, was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time tomorrow.

Mr. MILLER presented petitions of inhabitants of the State of Pennsylvania, praying that grants of land may be made to the officers of the Army, who served in the late war with Great Britain.

Mr. LUCAS presented a petition of Superintendents, Master Armorers, and Paymasters, of the National Armories at Springfield and Harper's Ferry, praying for an increase of compensation.

Mr. DENNY presented a remonstrance of sundry officers of the Army against the passing of the bill, now pending in this House, providing for the support of the widows and orphans of such officers of the Army as may die while in service, by a deduction from the pay of the officers and cadets.

Mr. VANCE presented a remonstrance of officers of the Military Academy now stationed at West Point—of a similar nature to that presented by Mr. DENNY.

SATURDAY, FEB. 15.—The SPEAKER laid before the House a letter from the Secretary of War, transmitting statements of the contracts made during the year 1833.

The bill, making appropriations for certain fortifications for the year 1834, was reported and ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

MONDAY, FEB. 17.—Mr. SUTHERLAND presented a memorial of officers of the Army, in the late war with Great Britain, praying that bounty lands may be granted to the officers of said Army.

Mr. COULTER presented a similar petition.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 19.—The bill to render permanent the present mode of supplying the Army of the United States, and fixing the salaries of certain clerks named therein, was taken up, on its third reading, and after an animated discussion re-committed to the Committee on Military Affairs.

The bill making appropriations for certain fortifications was taken up, on its third reading and discussed, but before any question was taken, the House adjourned.

FRIDAY, FEB. 21.—The HOUSE resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole, on the bill to compensate Susan Decatur, widow and representative of Capt. Stephen Decatur, deceased, and others, for the destruction of the Frigate Philadelphia. The bill was the subject, as on former occasions, of protracted discussion, and before any vote was taken, the committee rose, reported progress, and had leave to sit again.

MONDAY, FEB. 24.—Mr. HUNTINGTON, of Connecticut, presented a memorial of the officers of the Army stationed at Fort Monroe, against the passage of the bill now pending in this House, for the relief of the widows and orphans of the officers of the Army.

TUESDAY, FEB. 25.—The HOUSE resumed the consideration of the bill making appropriations for certain fortifications, which, after discussion, was

recommitted to the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, in order to have its provisions more fully investigated.

THURSDAY, FEB. 27.—On motion of Mr. R. M. JOHNSON, the Committee on Military Affairs was discharged from the further consideration of the memorial of the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, for the establishment of an Arsenal in said State, and said memorial was ordered to be referred to the Secretary of War.

FRIDAY, FEB. 28.—Mr. WATMOUGH, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, reported a bill to regulate and equalize the pay of the officers of the Army and Navy of the United States, which was read twice and referred to a Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union.

The bill for the relief of Mrs. Decatur was taken up and discussed, and the Committee had leave to sit again.

TUESDAY, MARCH 4.—Mr. R. M. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported a bill to render permanent the present mode of supplying the Army of the United States, and fixing the salary of certain clerks named therein, with an amendment; which bill was committed to the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union.

Mr. R. M. JOHNSON, from the same Committee, made a report on the expediency of making an appropriation for the commencement of the works of the first and second class, projected by the Board of Engineers, for the defence of the river Patapsco and the City of Baltimore; which report was read and laid on the table.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5.—Mr. R. M. JOHNSON presented a memorial of sundry officers of the Army of the United States, in the late war with Great Britain, praying that grants of bounty lands may be made to the officers of the said Army.

Mr. POPE presented a similar petition from sundry other officers of the aforesaid Army, residing in the State of Kentucky.

Mr. BURGESS presented a memorial of officers of the Army, stationed at Fort Independence, near Boston, against the enactment into a law of the bill to provide for the support of the widows and orphans of officers of the Army.

FRIDAY, MARCH 7.—The bill for the relief of Mrs. Decatur, was, by consent, postponed for the present.

TUESDAY, MARCH 11.—On motion of Mr. THOMSON, of Ohio, the Committee on Military Affairs was discharged from the further consideration of the memorial of the officers of the National Armories at Springfield and Harper's Ferry.

On motion of Mr. POLK, the House went into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, Mr. WAYNE in the chair, and took up the Army appropriation bill. The bill was read by sections, and discussed; but before coming to any conclusion, the committee rose, reported progress, and the House adjourned.

THURSDAY, MARCH 13.—The House went into Committee of the Whole, and resumed the consideration of the Military appropriation bill, which occupied the remainder of the day.

FRIDAY, MARCH 14.—The House took up the consideration of the Army appropriation bill, which, after debate, was ordered to be engrossed.

This bill was read a third time, on Saturday the 15th, and passed.

MONDAY, MARCH 17.—Mr. BARKER presented a memorial of officers in the Army, during the late war with Great Britain, praying that an act may be passed, granting bounty lands to said officers.

TUESDAY, MARCH 18.—Mr. R. M. JOHNSON reported a bill for the erection of a National Armory on the western waters, accompanied by a detailed report on the subject; twice read and committed.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19.—Mr. EVERETT obtained leave to offer the following, which was agreed to:

Resolved, That the Secretary of War be directed to submit to this House any information concerning the fortifications proposed to be built on Castle Island, in the harbor of Boston, and on Throg's Point, in East river, in the State of New York, which may have been recently received at the War Department.

THURSDAY, MARCH 20.—Mr. SUTHERLAND reported a bill making grants of land to the disbanded officers, and others, for services and sacrifices during the late war.

The SPEAKER laid before the House a letter from the Secretary of War, accompanied by two hundred and fifty printed copies of the Army Register for 1834, for the members of the House.

MONDAY, MARCH 24.—Mr. WARDWELL presented a memorial of officers of the Army stationed at Fort Dearborn, in the State of Illinois, remonstrating against the passage of the bill for the purpose of creating a provident or contingent fund, by a tax on the pay of all the officers of the Army.

The SPEAKER presented a similar memorial of officers of the Army stationed at Jefferson Barracks, in the State of Missouri.

Mr. BURD presented a similar memorial of the officers of the Army, stationed at Fort Niagara, in the State of New York.

Mr. E. D. WHITE presented a similar one from officers stationed at Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Mr. E. WHITTLESEY presented a resolution of the General Assembly of the State of Ohio, requesting Congress to pass an act granting lands to the officers, militia, and volunteers, who served in the late war for three months and upwards, and to the widows and orphans of those who were killed, and to those who enlisted and served for twelve or eighteen months.

Mr. W. C. JOHNSON presented a memorial of officers of the Army in the late war with Great Britain, praying that grants of bounty land may be made to officers of said Army.

Mr. MCLENE presented the resolutions adopted by the Legislature of Ohio, declaring the Academy at West Point to be partial in its operations, and inconsistent with the spirit and genius of our liberal institutions, and instructing their Senators, and requesting their Representatives to oppose any further appropriations for the support of said Academy.

TUESDAY, MARCH 25.—The SPEAKER laid before the House a letter from the Secretary of War, transmitting a report of the Chief Engineer, containing the information called for by the House on the 19th instant, in relation to the fortifications proposed to be built on Castle Island, in the harbor of Boston, and on Throg's Point, in East river, in the State of New York.

MONDAY, APRIL 7.—Mr. WATMOUGH presented a memorial of the officers of the Army in the late war with Great Britain, praying that land may be granted to officers of said Army.

Mr. E. D. WHITE presented a memorial of officers of the Army, stationed at Fort Wood and Fort Pike, in the State of Louisiana, remonstrating against the passage of the bill for the relief of widows and orphans of officers.

TUESDAY, APRIL 8.—Mr. R. M. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported the following resolution, which was read and agreed to:

Resolved, That in consequence of the time which has elapsed since the establishment of the present discipline for the Army, and the improvements which have been made in military science, it is expedient to have a revision of said system; and therefore that the Secretary of War be directed to cause a revision thereof to be made, and the same to be reported to Congress at its next session.

THURSDAY, APRIL 10.—On motion of Mr. BURD, it was

Resolved, That the Committee on Military Affairs be instructed to inquire into the expediency of establishing a national armory in the counties of Bedford, Cambria, Huntingdon, Centre, or Mifflin, Penn., as to said Committee appear best.

On motion of Mr. PINCKNEY, it was

Resolved, That the Committee on Naval Affairs be instructed to inquire into the expediency of establishing a Naval Depot at Charleston, S. C.

On motion of Mr. PINCKNEY, it was

Resolved, That the Committee on Naval Affairs be instructed to inquire into the expediency of providing by law, for the abolition of the use of ardent spirits in the Navy.

On motion of Mr. MITCHELL, of Ohio, it was

Resolved, That the Committee on Military Affairs be instructed to inquire into the expediency of establishing a National Armory on the waters of the Muskingum, in the State of Ohio.

SATURDAY, APRIL 19.—Mr. R. M. JOHNSON reported a bill, to provide for the printing of five thousand copies of a system of Cavalry Tactics for the use of the militia, accompanied by a report in writing.

An act, to provide for the payment of claims for property lost, captured, or destroyed, while in the service of the United States, by the enemy during the late war with Great Britain, and the Indian wars subsequent thereto, and for other purposes, was read a third time, passed, and sent to the Senate for concurrence.

FRIDAY, APRIL 25.—Mr. REED submitted a resolution, directing the Secretary of War to lay before the House a statement of the names of the armed national ships, and the names of their commanders during the Revolutionary War.

SATURDAY, APRIL 26.—The House in Committee of the Whole, took up the consideration of the bill for the relief of Mrs. Susan Decatur and others, which, having been gone through, was reported to the House.

NOTE.—The following was omitted in our former report, not having been contained in the paper from which our abstract was compiled :

MONDAY, DEC. 23.—A message was received from the President of the U. States, transmitting the rules and regulations for the government of the Navy, prepared by a Board of Officers.

MILITARY INTELLIGENCE.

The following named gentlemen have been invited by the Secretary of War to attend, as a Board of Visitors, the annual examination of the Cadets of the United States' Military Academy, which will commence on the first Monday in June, 1834.

Wm. Smyth, Esq.	Maine, H. G. Comingo, Esq.	Kentucky,
Gov. J. Brown Francis,	R. Island, Geo. M. Bass, Esq.	Tennessee,
Alvin Bronson, Esq.	N. York, Dr. P. Lindsley,	"
James Hooker, Esq.	" J. W. Scott, Esq.	Ohio,
Gen. G. Van Schoonhoven,	" Gov. R. Lucas,	"
T. B. Dallass, Esq.	Penn., John Hamm, Esq.	"
Col. T. Ringland,	" Col. A. Murat,	Florida,
C. B. Penrose, Esq.	" Gov. W. P. Duval,	"
James Latimer, Esq.	Delaware, Brig. Gen. H. Atkinson,	U. S. A.
J. T. Anderson, Esq.	Virginia, Lt. Col. S. Thayer,	U. S. C. of E.
Dr. R. M. Patterson,	" Capt. J. L. Smith,	"
Wright Stanley, Esq.	N. Carolina.	

ORDER, } HEAD QUARTERS OF THE ARMY, No. 19. } ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE, Washington March 6th, 1834.

I....A misconception of the meaning of the third section of the Act of 2d March, 1833, for the improvement of "the non-commissioned Officers and privates in the Army," having been discovered by the Accounting Officers of the Treasury Department, as to the "two months extra pay" allowed by the Recruiting Officers to *non-commissioned Officers and Artificers* who may re-enlist, it is announced for general information, that the provisions of the law as to the two months *extra pay*, and the giving in of two months, as to *time*, apply only to such able-bodied "*musicians and private soldiers*" as may re-enlist; and not to non-commissioned Officers and Artificers. The practice, therefore, which may have obtained, of permitting non-commissioned Officers

and Artificers to relinquish their appointments, in order thereby to receive the "two months extra pay," being at variance with the letter and intention of the law, is strictly prohibited; nor will any non-commissioned Officer or Artificer be permitted to enter on a *new*, or *re-enlistment*, until he shall have served the full period of the prior enlistment.

II...The fifth paragraph of "Order" No. 20, of 1833, is amended as follows: "And any *musician* or *private*" who may so re-enlist, prior to an unexpired term of service, will be reported under the head of the "*Discharged*," on the same Rolls and Returns, and with the same date that he is reported as having "joined by *re-enlistment*." [Vide 4th paragraph of "Order" No. 20, of 1833.]

BY ORDER OF MAJOR GENERAL MACOMB:

R. JONES, *Adj't. Gen.*

(CIRCULAR.)

QUARTER MASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE,
WASHINGTON, April 21st, 1834.

SIR: Herewith subjoined, you will receive a copy of the Second Comptroller's decision on a voucher in the accounts of Lieutenant John Bradley, by which you will perceive that the law authorizing a per diem allowance to commissioned Officers, when travelling to, and from, General Courts Martial, does not warrant the calculating of thirty miles as equivalent to a day, as pointed out by 1,081 of the Army Regulations.

The certificate of the Officer who may present his claim to you for payment, must be full and explicit as to the number of days that he was necessarily occupied in travelling, by the usual route and mode of travelling, to, and from, the post, or place, where the Court convened.

The Comptroller has also decided that Officers travelling to, and from, and attending on, Courts of Inquiry, are not entitled to the per diem authorized to officers on General Court Martial service; they are entitled to nothing more than the transportation of baggage. Recorders to such Courts are an exception to this decision, because, by 1,084 of the Regulations, they are entitled to the per diem.

I am, respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

TH. S. JESUP, Q. M. G.

The journey was commenced on the 5th and terminated on the 8th of August, making four days, one of which the claimant was in attendance on the Court. By the 20th section of the act [11th January, 1812,] entitled "An Act to raise an additional Military Force," it is provided,—“That where any commissioned officer shall be obliged to incur any extra expense in travelling and sitting on General Courts Martial, he shall be allowed a reasonable compensation for such extra expense, actually incurred, not exceeding one dollar and twenty-five cents per day to officers who are not entitled to forage, and not exceeding one dollar per day to such as shall be entitled to forage.” It is evident therefore that Lieutenant Bradley is only entitled to one dollar and twenty-five cents per day for three days, while travelling to and from Court. This compensation cannot be extended by executive regulation, because such extension is forbidden by the express terms of the Act of Congress. It is proper to remark that Regulation 1,081 was based on a calculation of travel at a time when the facilities for travel were not so great as at present, and may have been a fair calculation at the time; but this case is sufficient to show that it is now erroneous. Let Lieutenant Bradley be paid for three days, and in all similar cases no more than one dollar and twenty-five cents per day will be allowed for the number of days necessarily required to perform the journey charged for, by the usual route and mode of travelling.

Officers attending Courts Martial, will be required to state the number of days necessarily occupied by them in travelling to and from the post where the Court convened.

SECOND COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE, MARCH 27, 1834.

(Signed)

J. B. THORNTON.

ORDER, }
No. 41. }

HEAD QUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, May 19, 1834,

I....Agreeably to instructions previously communicated, the Regiment of Dragoons will commence its Western tour from Fort Gibson across to the boggy of Red river, and thence through the nations of Indians who inhabit the country along the Mexican frontiers, within the territory of the United States, to the river La Platte; from thence westwardly as far as may be convenient, and thence to the Missouri, and down that river to Fort Leavenworth.

II....The Regiment of Dragoons will take up their winter quarters in the following positions:

1st. Head Quarters of the Regiment, Col. Dodge, with four companies, viz. Wharton's, Hunter's, Ford's, and Duncan's, at Fort Leavenworth, on the Missouri, near the La Platte.

2d. Lieut. Col. Kearney, with three companies, viz. Sumner's, Boon's, and Browne's, on the right bank of the Mississippi, within the Indian country, near the mouth of the Des Moines.

3d Major Mason, with three companies, viz. Trenor's, Bean's and Perkins', at or near Fort Gibson, on the Arkansas.

BY ORDER OF MAJOR GENERAL MACOMB:

R. JONES, *Adj't. Gen.*

APPOINTMENTS, RESIGNATIONS, AND DEATHS, IN THE ARMY.

APPOINTMENTS.

John S. Lytle, Paymaster, 27th February, 1834.

John B. Wells, Assistant Surgeon, 1st February, 1834.

John M. Cuyler, Assistant Surgeon, 1st April, 1834.

Madison Mills, Assistant Surgeon, 1st April, 1834.

RESIGNATIONS.

P. St. G. Cocke, Second Lieut. 2d Artillery, 1st April, 1834.

A. S. Johnston, Second Lieut. 6th Infantry, 31st May, 1834.

DEATHS.

William Bradford, Second Lieut. Dragoons, 17th March, 1834.

A. C. Fowler, First Lieut. 2d Artillery, 30th April, 1834.

Brevet Colonel Eustis, 4th Artillery, is assigned to the command of Fort Hamilton.

Captain L. Whiting's company, (F) 4th Artillery, at Fort Columbus, ordered to join the garrison at Fort Hamilton.

Five companies of Dragoons (Captains Trenor, Ford, Boone, Browne, and Bean,) left Jefferson Barracks for Fort Gibson, during the month of May.

The company of Artillery, under the command of Major R. A. Zantzinger, destined to occupy Fort Pickens, on Santa Rosa Island, arrived at Pensacola about the 20th April, and took temporary quarters at Cantonment Clinch.

NAVAL INTELLIGENCE.

LOSS OF THE U. S. SCHOONER PORPOISE.

A Court of Inquiry having been ordered, at the request of Lieutenant Commanding William Taylor, to examine into and report the facts respecting the loss of the late U. S. schooner Porpoise, assembled at the Navy Yard, Pensacola, in January last. The following is the finding of the Court:

PENSACOLA NAVY YARD,
January 29, 1834.

Members present—Captain A. J. Dallas, President.
Master Commandant Thomas T. Webb.
Lieut. Commanding Joseph Smoot.
Thomas Miller, Judge Advocate.

The Court having been required by the precept, under which it has taken the evidence in the case of the loss of the U. S. schooner Porpoise, to report the conduct of the officers and crew, and whether they did their utmost to preserve her, and after the loss thereof behaved themselves agreeably to the discipline of the Navy, or otherwise: after having maturely deliberated on the evidence, examined the log-book, and inspected the chart by which that vessel was navigated—report as follows:

That the loss of the U. S. schooner Porpoise on a reef off Point Lizardo, on the coast of Mexico, was, in its opinion, not caused by any neglect, or want of care and attention in the navigation of said U. S. schooner Porpoise; and that the conduct of Lieut. Comdt. William Taylor, his officers and crew, the moment the dangerous position of the vessel was known, until their arrival at the Navy Yard, Pensacola, in the American brig Jasper, was such as to merit the highest commendation.

WEST INDIES.—Ship Falmouth, Capt. Spencer, arrived at Pensacola from Norfolk, on the 21st April. Still there May 9th.

Ship Vandalia, Capt. Webb, sailed from Jamaica 11th April; arrived at Havana 20th; sailed thence 24th, and arrived at Pensacola 1st May. Still there on the 9th; all well.

While the Vandalia was at Kingston, the new Governor, the Marquis of Sligo, arrived there with his family, in the frigate Blonde, Com. Mason, who was to sail in a day or two for the Pacific, where he takes command of the English squadron. The greatest cordiality existed between the English officers and those of the Vandalia. Mutual civilities, both national and personal, were interchanged by the officers of the respective services.

Ship St. Louis, Capt. Newell, off Cape Antonio, 18th April, from Kingston, (Jam.); at Pensacola 22d April; sailed thence 5th May for coast of Mexico.

Schr. Experiment, Lt. Comd'g Paine, sailed from Pensacola 6th April, and after touching at the Dry Tortugas and Key West, arrived at Havana 20th. Still there 23d April; all well.

Schr. Grampus, Lt. Comd'g White, arrived at St. Thomas 23d April, with loss of guns, anchors, boat, &c. to sail thence 27th.

MEDITERRANEAN.—The Delaware 74, and frigate United States, were at Mahon 19th March, all well.

Schr. Shark, Lieut. Comd'g Paulding, after remaining at Tangier about ten days, returned to Gibraltar, and was there on the 31st March, all well; would sail in a few days for Malaga and Mahon.

Some changes having been made among the Lieutenants in the Mediterranean, it may be interesting to their friends to know what vessels they were attached to at the latest advices.

Delaware, 74.—Wyman, J. S. Chauncey, Stewart, Downes, J. H. Marshall, Lardner, Foot, Boyle.

Frigate United States. Buchanan, Magruder, Selfridge, A. K. Long, S. S. Lee.

Frigate Constellation.—Rudd, Jackson, G. Adams, Jenkins, J. A. Davis.

Schr. Shark.—Woolsey, Homans.

BRAZIL.—Sloop Peacock, Capt. Geisinger, sailed from Rio for New York, on the April, and arrived on the May. [Officers hereafter.]

Sloop Natchez, Capt. Zantzinger, at Montevideo 20th March, to sail next day for Rio, and arrived at Rio 26th March; still there 9th April.

Sloop Ontario, Capt. Salter, at the river La Plata, 26th March.

Schr. Boxer, Lt. Comd'g Farragut, at Rio 26th March; still there 9th April.

PACIFIC.—Sloop Vincennes, Com. Wadsworth, sailed from Rio for Valparaiso 12th January.

Frigate Potomac, Com. Downes, at Rio 26th March, 45 days from Valparaiso; sailed from Rio 9th April, for Boston, and arrived at the latter port May 23d.

Officers.—*Commodore*, John Downes; *Lieutenants*, Irvine Shubrick, Stephen B. Wilson, Henry Hoff, Jonathan Ingersoll, Matthew F. Maury, acting, Sylvanus Godon, acting; Alvin Edson, *1st Lieutenant Marines*. Samuel Jackson, *Fleet Surgeon* Philo White, *Purser*. John W. Grier, *Chaplain*. Robert S. Tatem, *Sailing Master*. M. G. L. Claiborne, *Second Master*. George H. Terret, *2d Lieutenant Marines*. Jonathan M. Foliz, H. D. W. Pawling, *Assistant Surgeons*. James N. Reynolds, *Commodore's Secretary*; Francis Warriner *School-master*; David Telfair, *Captain's Clerk*; Charles de Selding and Richard Jones, *Master's Mates*.

Midshipmen.—F. P. Hoban, W. May, J. G. Stanley, J. W. Taylor, G. T. Sinclair, H. C. Hart, W. T. Cocke, G. M. Totten, C. W. Morris, J. B. Lewis, E. Boyle, L. Lincoln, jr., T. B. Barrett, W. M. E. Adams, W. H. Pendleton, W. B. Whiting, A. B. Davis, C. Hunter.

Boatswain, John McNelly; *Gunner*, John R. Covington; *Carpenter*, W. E. Sheffield; *Sailmaker*, Christian Nelson

Purser Wm. A. Slacum remains at Valparaiso, in charge of the Navy Agency.

The Frigate Brandywine, Capt. Deacon, arrived at Norfolk from New York, on the 12th May, and would be ready to sail for the Pacific on or about the 26th.

List of Officers.—David Deacon, *Captain*; *Lieutenants*, William Inman, Edward S. Johnson, H. H. Hobbs, Henry Bruce, G. J. Van Brunt; *Surgeon*, A. A. Adey; *Chaplain*, Thomas R. Lambert; *Purser*, Joseph H. Terry; *Master*, Samuel F. Hazard; *Second Master*, S. P. Lee; *Assistant Surgeons*, A. G. Gambrill, J. C. Palmer; *Passed Midshipmen*, Wm. B. Ludlow, Wm. C. Spencer, John Weems, E. M. Yard, Charles Green, J. J. White, L. Stoddard; *Midshipmen*, Charles Robinson, J. S. Patterson, C. H. Piper, C. Van Alstine, L. W. Wilkins, Daniel M. Key, C. R. P. Rodgers, Francis Winslow, J. S. Biddle, M. D. E. Watson, R. R. Nichols, J. W. Reed, S. Pierce, Francis Lowry, Joseph Norvell; *Boys acting as Midshipmen*, R. B. Riel, John Dennis, Howard Tilletson; *Schoolmaster*, John Pierce, Senr.; *Carpenter*, Charles Boardman; *Sailmaker*, J. R. Childs; *Gunner*, Daniel James; *Purser's Steward*, D. McComb; *Master's Mate*, James C. Low; *Captain's Clerk*, Thomas C. Ryall.

Passengers, Commodore J. Renshaw, and Capt J. H. Aulick.

The Lexington, Capt. McKeever, arrived at Portsmouth, N. H. on the 26th April, from the coast of Brazil.

Officers.—*Commander*, Isaac McKeever; *Lieutenants*, J. Myers, J. Bubier, J. H. Little, T. D. Shaw, J. Stallings; *Purser*, A. J. Watson, *Surgeon*, R. I. Dodd; *Assistant Surgeon*, W. L. Van Horne; *Acting Master*, G. G. Williamson; *Midshipmen*, Wm. Page, R. H. Lowndes, J. H. Strong, B. T. Shattuck, B. M. Hunter, W. S. Drayton, W. C. Zantzinger; *Boatswain*, G. W. Peabody; *Gunner*, J. M. Cooper; *Carpenter*, N. S. Lee; *Sailmaker*, W. Ward; *Passenger*, Lieut. W. W. Hunter.

Schooner Enterprize, Lieut. Com'g A. S. Campbell, is preparing for sea at Norfolk, and will sail in a few days for the coast of Brazil.

Instructions have been forwarded to Commodore Wadsworth, in the Pacific Ocean, directing him, at or near the expiration of her cruise, to despatch home one of the sloops under his command by way of India, and to visit if practicable, without great delay or danger, the Feejee and Pelew Islands, inquiring for and taking on board any American whalers, or citizens who may feel desirous to return to their native country.

Lieut. Joseph Moorehead, who went out as passenger in the Schooner Grampus to join the Falmouth, unfortunately had one of his legs broken during the gale, in which the schooner was compelled to throw her guns &c. overboard; he was left on shore at St. Thomas, to return home as soon as he should be well enough.

TO MARINERS.—The following is the only account of the situation of the Florida Light Houses to be depended upon, having been carefully made up by the Collector of Key West.

Cape Florida Light.—Stationary, situated on the south side of Key Biscayne, about 400 yards from the beach. The light may be considered seventy feet above the level of the sea, distant from the gulf stream about seven miles. Vessels drawing ten feet may approach within two and a half miles of the light. Lat. 25, 47, N. long. 80, 42, W.

Light Ship Florida, is situated on Carysford's Reef; near the site of the old one, in lat. 25, 08. N. long. 80, 27, W. It is easily distinguished, as two distinct lights are shown, which can generally be seen at the distance of 12 miles. Its object is to warn vessels from the dangerous rocks and shoals near which it is placed.

Key West Light stands on the S. West Point of the Island of Key West; is in lat. 24, 33½ N. long. 81, 52½, W. erected for the purpose of guiding vessels when entering the harbor; the directions for which are as follows:—Bring the light to bear N. N. W. and the Sand Key Light to bear W. S. W. and you cross the reef in about five fathoms water; run for Key West Light until within two miles, then steer N. W. until you open Flemming's Key—which is a Mangrove Island in the northern part of the harbor, and then run for it. The best anchorage is in the upper part of the harbor. Height of the Light House from the level of the sea, 83 feet 6 inches. Light stationary.

Sand Key Light.—Revolving once in 54 seconds. It is the best light on the coast; S. W. by S. from Key West Light, lat. 24, 26, 57, N. long. 81, 57, W. situated directly on the reef. The light 70 feet above the sea.

Tortugas Light.—Stationary—on one of the Dry Tortugas Islands, near the western extremity of the Reef, in lat. 24, 31, long. 83, 10, W.

MARRIAGES.

On the 20th February, At Fort Towson, West Choctaw Nation, by the Rev. Alfred Wright, Missionary, Lieutenant HENRY BAINBRIDGE, of the U. S. Army, to Miss MARY SANDFORD, daughter of Alexander Sandford, Esq. of Baltimore.

In Richmond, Va. on the 22d March, ROBERT B. RANDOLPH, Esq. late of the U. S. Navy, to Miss EGLANTINE BEVERLY, of Alexandria, D. C.

At Providence, R. I. on the 23d April, Lieut. AMASA PAINE, of the Navy, to Miss ANN BURGESS, eldest daughter of Thomas Burgess, Esq.

In Philadelphia, on the 13th April, SAMUEL S. TAYLOR, Esq. of New York, to CHARLOTTE J. daughter of the late Capt. Joseph Bainbridge of the U. S. Navy

In Philadelphia, on the 6th May, Lieut. HARRY INGERSOLL, of the Navy, to Miss SARAH EMLEN, daughter of George Roberts, Esq.

In Annapolis, on the 14th May, Capt. PHILIP F. VOORHEES, of the Navy, to ANNE, third daughter of the late John Randall, Esq.

In Georgetown, D. C. on the 22d May, Lieut. HILLARY H. RHODES, of the Navy, to Miss MARION S. daughter of Charles L. Carter, Esq. of Ridgeville, Fauquier Co. Va.

DEATHS.

At Fort King, Florida, on the 23d March, Dr. JAMES W. ROPER, Assistant Surgeon U. S. Army.

In Washington, on the 27th April, FRANCIS A. N. MACOMB, in the 17th year of his age, son of Major General Macomb, of the Army.

In Washington, on the 15th May, JULIUS FRANCIS, infant son of Lieut. J. A. d'Lagnel, of the Army.

At his residence near Washington City, on the 8th May, EDWARD HOBAN, formerly a Midshipman in the Navy.

At Baltimore, on the 25th May, of a congestion of the brain, Master Commandant WILLIAM L. GORDON, of the Navy, in the 37th year of his age.

At sea, on the 30th April, on his passage from New Orleans to Philadelphia, Lieut. A. C. FOWLER, of the 2d Artillery, aged 40.